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# Latin America Report

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## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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## OUTGOING CARIBBEAN LABOR LEADER DISCUSSES CBI, FUTURE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 14 May 83 p 2

[Text]

**BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS:** After 10 years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Barbados-based Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), Burns Bonadie returns to his native St. Vincent this month to launch a political career.

On May 19, he will be sworn in as a Government Senator and will then be drafted into the administration of his uncle, Prime Minister Milton Cato.

Bonadie's return to Kingstown, a year before elections are constitutionally due, comes amid speculation that Prime Minister Cato, who was hospitalised here earlier this year, is about to call it a day, and favours his nephew as his successor.

In an interview with CANA's Reudon Eversley, the 40-year old trade unionist however said there was nothing unusual about the timing of his return as it was always inevitable that he would have entered Vincentian politics.

When the ruling St. Vincent Labour Party announces its list of candidates for next year's election, Bonadie says he expects to be among them - fighting it out with former SVLP Health Minister, Randolph Russell, for a Kingstown seat. Russell resigned in 1981 and crossed the floor.

Bonadie supports the concept of parliamentary democracy but says those who believe in this system of Government must prove that it can work for the benefit of the masses, and not a select few. Otherwise, he warns, the way is open for the people to be lured into experimenting with other systems.

Following is the first part of an abridged version of Eversley's interview with the outgoing CCL Secretary-Treasurer.

**EVERSLEY:** Mr. Bonadie, you have been very much involved in efforts to secure the passage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. What immediate benefits do you think the region will derive from this package if it is passed by the U.S. Congress?

**BONADIE:** I believe that if the measure passes the U.S. Congress and House of Representatives, it would alleviate some of the unemployment problems which we now have, because we can't sell some of the stuff we're manufacturing at the moment in the region because of certain restrictions that have now been put on by some CARICOM Governments resulting from the decision taken by Jamaica. So I think that it will bring immediate benefits and relief to the region.

**EVERSLEY:** But what about the opposition of the AFL-CIO [the foremost labour organisation in the United States] to the passage of the CBI?

**BONADIE:** The first thing is that the CCL is supportive of the CBI measure and we would like particularly to see the duty free aspect passed. We disagree with the AFL-CIO on certain areas of their version of the CBI which we made known to them - the whole question of cutting the [12 year] duty free period [for Caribbean goods] in half. However, they have pointed out that this is negotiable with the administration. They wanted to sit down with the administration - and I think we were successful in persuading some people connected with the administration that they should sit with the AFL-CIO and discuss their version of the bill - so that you can have a compromise before the bill reaches for debate.

The AFL-CIO had people who would actually sponsor their bill in Congress and we wanted to avoid any lengthy discussions on the CBI, because it has gone on for too long and the Caribbean, at this stage, is reeling under the effects of recession and so on and we would like some escape valve for our produce and commodities, particularly to the United States. We disagreed too with the question of the extension of the list of exemptions which included glass products, electronics, watches and so on. We persuaded the AFL-CIO to ease up on those things, because those were industries which are in operation at the moment in the Caribbean and where we could derive immediate benefit and we would not like to see [AFL/CIO] put up any obstacles in the way of the Caribbean as far as those exports were concerned.

**EVERSLEY:** What has the response of the AFL-CIO been like to the CCL's arguments for the CBI?

**BONADIE:** Their response has not been bad, because the AFL-CIO, for those people who have been following their position, opposed any CBI measure. They opposed it from the beginning and we were able to persuade them not to oppose the measure totally at a meeting we had prior to our last meeting in April. And they accepted the arguments which we put forward and came up with their own version of the CBI which called for some sort of assistance to the Caribbean region. They advanced the argument that it would have been better if the administration had divided the Caribbean Basin into two, because the English-speaking Caribbean is completely different from the Latin American region. We supported this measure because we felt it would have been much easier to deal with the English-speaking Caribbean as a separate entity. However, the package is aimed at everybody lumped together.

The AFL-CIO took the position that the inputs into the finished product must come from [only] one particular country and not from other countries within the region. We persuaded them that the CARICOM region must be accepted as one and they accepted this argument.

**EVERSLEY:** You have just made what you called a hard decision to quit the regional trade union scene to enter politics in your homeland. What has prompted you to make this decision at this stage?

**BONADIE:** It was inevitable that I would eventually enter the political field in St. Vincent once I returned home. The question was how much longer would I be prepared to stay on out of St. Vincent and I have made the decision now to go back at this time because my current term of office with the CCL would expire this year, and the decision to go was taken before the next congress of the CCL where the affiliates of the CCL would be in a position to elect a new secretary-treasurer.

**EVERSLEY:** What post have been offered in the St. Vincent Government?

**BONADIE:** I cannot say. The Prime Minister will have to determine that.

**EVERSLEY:** Is it, as reports have been suggesting, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Finance?

BONADIE: I really don't know what it is.

EVERSLEY: I recall you saying in your feature address at the annual conference of the ruling Barbados Labour Party [this year] that you intended to become a good politician when you entered politics. What kind of political career are you aiming at?

BONADIE: ... I see my role in Government as an extension of my own trade union career. My responsibility, of course, would be to the people generally but I must have a bias for the workers of St. Vincent. The reaction to my appointment so far has been most favourable. The general feedback was that the appointment was a good one, a timely one. The workers feel they have a voice, at least for the time being, in Parliament and in the Government. I am a nominated member now, but I will eventually go to the electorate in the next general elections [constitutionally due next year].

EVERSLEY: Which constituency do you have in mind?

BONADIE: Well, a particular one is there.

EVERSLEY: Which one is it?

BONADIE: I'll be running for a seat in the city.

EVERSLEY: Is one of the incumbent Labour Party MPs stepping down to make way for you?

BONADIE: No. The Labour Party now controls one [city] seat...

EVERSLEY: So will you be competing with Mr. [Randolph] Russell [former Health Minister in the Cato Government who crossed the floor in 1981]?

BONADIE: I ain't saying so. [pause] Yeah, that's the constituency.

EVERSLEY: Is it among your ambitions to become Prime Minister of St. Vincent some day?

BONADIE: I have no further ambitions than to serve the people and the Government. That is my ambition.

EVERSLEY: What then about reports suggesting that you are being called back home specially to be groomed as the successor to Mr. Cato?

BONADIE: ... There was a lot of speculation in St. Vincent about my coming back. But I'm not going back to St. Vincent to be groomed as anything. The Prime Minister cannot groom me to be a Prime Minister and I would like you to say that. Under our system, whoever leads the Labour Party into a successful general election will become the Prime Minister. So that is a lot of idle talk and I believe it is being perpetrated by the opposition who want to create a little confusion in the Labour Party.

EVERSLEY: At this stage in its development, what do you see as St. Vincent's main problems? You have previously described Barbados as a great country, would you like to see St. Vincent develop like Barbados?

BONADIE: I was just making a comparison, in that certain infrastructural developments in Barbados are in place and in comparison with St. Vincent, St. Vincent is still lacking in a number of those areas. In terms of communications, airport facilities ... St. Vincent is way behind Barbados where those things are concerned. In terms of attracting the type of investment that would create jobs, we need to do much more about the infrastructural development and it is in that area in terms of making the comparison. St. Vincent's problem is like other countries in the region — serious unemployment. I think statistically we have the youngest population in the region under 15 years of age and that is one of the problems that we have to deal with. We have a very high birth rate which needs to be controlled. Those are some of the basic problems I can deal with offhand. We are over-supplied in the field of agriculture in some areas and we need not only to find markets but also convince the farmers that they need to diversify and so on. It's very difficult because we have traditional people who are bent in their ways, but the Government now is attempting to create a number of demonstration plots all over the country to show that the yield you can get out of rotating different food crops and so on is high and much better.

[CANA]

## STORMY POLITICAL CLIMATE TO PRECEDE ADVENT OF DEMOCRACY

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 8 May 83 pp 12-13

[Commentary by Ricardo Kirschbaum: "Strong Political Turbulence"]

[Text] A violent political storm has been unleashed in Argentina, and according to veteran navigators this is only the beginning of a period of strong turbulence--and potential eruptions--that will mark the transition until the day of the general elections in October.

The continuing aftershocks from the Malvinas war and the incandescent flares of the alleged military-union pact were compounded by the bombshell of the report on the missing persons, which perhaps marked the peak of the government's international isolation. These, then, were the heavy, dramatic features of a delicate political picture.

Both civilians and the military agree on the diagnosis, however. At the end of this hazardous road there will be elections and power will be handed over to constitutional authorities.

A tangle of sensitive issues will be part of daily life in the Armed Forces from now until the end of the de facto process. During this period we will also witness the high point of the internal Peronist struggle, which promises to be like none before it.

But let's take things one at a time and try to clarify the salient aspects of the situation.

The government was relieved to see the episcopate's note on the official document that declared the missing dead. With the government having been censured internationally and strongly condemned at home, some public officials had already begun to question the decision to release the report.

The Italian Government reacted the strongest, and the vigorous protest by President Sandro Pertini, an uncompromising antifascist, created a highly charged atmosphere among the high commands, who called for the expulsion of Ambassador Sergio Kociancich, the withdrawal of the head of the Argentine mission in Rome and other reprisals.

In fact, only Ambassador Luchetta was called home, and he will no doubt spend quite some time here before taking up his diplomatic post again. The patient powers of persuasion of Foreign Minister Lanari, who utilized the same innate peacemaking abilities that he showed as a senator, managed to calm the rough seas and smooth the ruffled feathers.

Citing the text of the Italian Constitution, the foreign minister spoke on Friday to the active-duty generals and pointed out to them that under its provisions President Sandro Pertini is not "responsible" for government acts, which he merely rubber-stamps. This formalistic argument enabled Aguirre Lanari to overcome the stumbling blocks and categorize Pertini's move as a merely personal one.

What would have happened had San Martin Palace yielded to the calls for more extreme measures against Italy? If Kociancich had been declared persona non grata, which virtually amounts to an expulsion, relations would most likely have been severed.

The scathing telegrams from Pertini and Italy's Foreign Ministry, as well as the protests by France and Spain and the joint action by the European Economic Community against the human rights report further narrowed the government's already scant maneuvering room vis-a-vis the countries of Western Europe..

On the domestic front, the bishops' document somewhat alleviated the heavy pressure that was being brought to bear on the government.

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, the official mouthpiece of the Holy See, was unfair to the military government.

Pope John Paul II added his criticism as well, albeit couched in much weaker terms. Given this context, a broadside by the bishops would have been the straw that broke the back of the government's position, because it would have been completely isolated.

But a breath of fresh air suddenly made the patient better, as the bishops opted for a moderate approach, placing the goal of reconciliation above all other considerations.

The bishops felt that the document contained assertions "that could represent a step towards a reconciliation," but to enable "the community to understand, the mistakes must be acknowledged and denounced and potential paths of redress sought."

They go on to say: "The document unfortunately makes no mention of a search for solutions that respect the rights of missing children, who we want to believe are still alive and have been given up for adoption."

This is unquestionably a controversial assertion, and political sources and human rights organizations criticized the lack of an explicit condemnation on this tragic question.



A high-level Casa Rosada official contrasted the bishops' "balanced" document with the reaction of political parties, to which he attributed mere "electoral motivations."

The government draws these almost crude conclusions in its zeal to simplify reality. The same view held by such administration representatives, with the exceptions that prove the rule, was heard in military circles, which are quick to attribute any criticism from civilians to the proximity of the elections, thus demonstrating a distorted view of the function of party leaders.

Amid all of these strong emotions there is one unanimous conclusion across the broad civilian span: the official document has not put to rest the dramatic issue of the missing persons.

Government sources acknowledge this important fact, and thus the idea of an amnesty law, which the Armed Forces had rejected until now, has begun to gain ground.

The drafters of such a bill will have to spell out these two aspects: 1) How long it will remain in effect, and 2) What a "crime by virtue of political motivation" is.

This amnesty would not extend to those whom the Armed Forces regard as the heads of terrorist gangs, nor will it cover those who have committed either economic crimes or engaged in "illicit" activities, a euphemism for corruption.

Another issue that is keeping high army commands awake at night has to do with the investigation into the Malvinas war.

The army feels that there is a conspiracy afoot to blame only it for the defeat, while the navy's performance is offset by the strong emotional impact of the sinking of the "General Belgrano," and the air force "overestimates" its role in the fighting.

Both navy and air force sources, in contrast, talk about the "catharsis" that took place in their upper echelons after the fall of Puerto Argentino, a development that they claim did not take place in the army.

This would seem to be the major argument that Galtieri could use in his counterattack. The fact is that the former president is in an odd situation: He feels that he could be made the scapegoat for the entire mess and he does not seem prepared to passively accept that role.

The former army commander reportedly feels that much of the top echelon is just as responsible for losing the war as he is, and he is advancing this argument as a sort of warning.



Even if the challenge to the tribunal of honor is rejected, he plans to bolster his position in the event of a court-martial, which the "Rattembach Commission" will reportedly call for against him, Jorge Anaya and Basilio Lami Dozo, the former commanders of the navy and air force.

Reliable information on the investigation into the war indicates that a ruling from Rattembach is not imminent and also that the commission's conclusions would not likely be made public.

So far, Maj Gen Osvaldo Garcia (who asked to leave the army after Nicolaides transferred officers who fought on the islands to other spots around the country) and the four Malvinas generals (Menendez, Jofre, Daher and Parada) have retired as a result of the war.

Gen Ricardo Flouret was also retired, but because he criticized the approach taken by the top echelon of the army in the confrontation with Great Britain.

Another key political development created a violent clash between Alfonsin, Lorenzo Miguel and the commander of the army.

Let's begin with what the latter did. Nicolaides moved up by 2 days the meeting of the high commands that was initially scheduled for last Thursday. The commander thus met with his top commands on Tuesday night.

According to military sources, Nicolaides's decision to move the closed-door meeting up was prompted by his desire to put some distance between it and the gathering of all the active generals on Friday.

Nicolaides repeated to the major generals that the army was remaining officially aloof from politics and denied Alfonsin's claim of a pact with labor leaders.

Two ranking officers, Martella and Wehner, who rarely make public statements were unusually talkative this time. Of course both denied the "pact" and hit back at Alfonsin, accusing him of trying to create rifts in the high command.

Interestingly, the two generals' condemnations were just what the Renovation and Change candidate needed, as he was under the crossfire of Peronist labor.

The concurrent criticism from the unions and the military enabled Alfonsin to say: "Proof? There you have it!"

But Miguel's followers were annoyed by another political somersault: Villaveiran has just announced a union normalization by means of direct elections, an arrangement that replaced the temporary commissions of the major trade unions, whose makeup, Alfonsin and the CGT [General Confederation of Labor]-Azopardo claimed, was being negotiated by "the 62" of the metallurgical union leader.

This change of course cannot be separated from Alfonsin's charge. The decision to call elections within 60 to 90 days in the major trade unions had allegedly been made during the lengthy meeting between the labor minister and the secretaries general of the Armed Forces, at which time the navy and air force succeeded in having a say in the matter.

Alfonsin has been very costly politically to the Peronists: he was on the threshold of anti-Peronism and is on the verge of yielding to the almost unavoidable temptation of leading a crusade under those banners.

In a reflex action, both "the 62" and the CGT-RA put heavy pressure on Peronism's top political echelon to have the party tighten the screws on the Radicals in the Multiparty Assembly. Bittel, who knows better than anyone the advantages of a balanced relationship with his old adversaries on Alsina Street, tried to weather the storm. When he was unable to, he signed the warning to the UCR [Radical Civic Union] and immediately got in touch with Contin to explain the document's meaning.

Thus, in one of those paradoxes of politics, the artillery broadside that the Peronist leadership unleashed was interpreted by Bittel as the finale of an "unpleasant" episode. Contin responded in kind: "Relations with the PJ [Justicialist Party] have not been affected," he said.

How will this squabble evolve?

First of all, we know that Alfonsin will go before the TV cameras on Tuesday and, if they ask him about it, will go on the offensive again. Furthermore, Peronism's intermediate organizations and provincial leaders will pursue their campaign against the Renovation and Change leader.

Inside Peronism, however, positions are polarizing ever more rapidly.

A strong movement is in full swing to demonstrate that the elections will be fraudulent unless former President Isabel Peron is rehabilitated.

Those behind this maneuver (the ultra-verticalists, members of Isabel's last cabinet, some union factions) are seeking to revive a strategy aimed at making Peron's widow a candidate again, come what may.

Since electors will be chosen at the forthcoming election, they could give their blessing to a ticket headed by the former president, thus creating a dual conflict: with the courts, because she is disqualified from holding public office, and with the military, which would have trouble swallowing such a maneuver.

"The vice president would then take over, and his first act would be to pardon Mrs Peron. Thus," the argument goes, "the legislative assembly could confirm her as president."

This tactic seems overly ambitious and is probably designed to pressure the military into granting a pardon before the balloting.

Another option (this is more brainstorming from that faction of Peronism) would be to repeat the experience of 1973: to choose a temporary ticket for the October elections (Manuel Arauz Castex is being mentioned as the head of the ticket).

Once they win and take office, which the Peronists take for granted, they would resign. Elections would thus be called again, and Isabel could once more become the president of Argentina.

Other Peronist factions reject this thinking and point out that it is being pushed by groups that are opposed to a reorganization of the party and that carry no weight.

The strategy of these other factions (one of which is the MUSO, which is running Antonio Cafiero) is to bring about a reversal of roles: to hold the party primaries, stage the convention and determine which candidate has a majority. Once this has been ascertained, there would be a time-out and a trip to Madrid.

"Mrs Peron, this is the candidate who got the most votes at the convention. Do you approve?" would be the question posed to Isabel Peron.

In other words, it would be the theory of the "accomplished fact," based on a party majority.

But it is anyone's guess today what the woman residing in the Spanish capital, Peronism's number one elector, will do.

There are reports that Massera visited her for 10 hours in Madrid, that businessman Carlos Spadone, who accompanied Miguel to Madrid, spent time with her and that a young leader of the women's branch had a lengthy talk over tea with Peron's widow a few days ago. These are just rumors, however, another of which is that the former president suddenly changed addresses.

Another party, the Integration and Development Movement (MID), is not experiencing so much strife in its "nomination struggle." Its ticket, consisting of Rogelio Frigerio and Professor Antonio Salonia, has already come to light. This move by the MID seems to confirm its hard and fast decision to run alone, disillusioned by Peronism's coolness towards another "national front," which is one of the MID's banners.

The MID also openly condemned the "military-union pact." Is the MID's strategy perhaps aimed at new alliances in the Electoral College?

The inclement winds of rumors will henceforth be stinging the political scene like poisoned darts.

The great adventure of rebuilding a democratic tolerance in Argentina today seems a colossal, almost impossible task, but a fascinating and necessary one.

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CSO: 3348/418

## ALFONSIN'S POLITICAL STRATEGY DEFINED

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 20 May 83 pp 39-43

[Article: "The Candidates: Raul Alfonsin"]

[Text] As soon as it started gaining some momentum on the Argentine political scene, Raul Alfonsin's name began to be viewed as that of Ricardo Balbin's "heir." Eleven years ago (on 7 May 1972), the Radical Party's polls virtually destroyed the leader's political paternity exercised over Alfonsin, who had previously decided to fight him in order to become the undisputed "number one" figure in the Radical Civic Union [UCR]. On that 7 May, the first party elections were held after the political freeze ordered by Juan Carlos Ongania's military government. The struggle between Balbin and Alfonsin had its focal point in Buenos Aires Province, because both ran for "first delegate" to the national committee, an essential step for reaching the party's top echelons. Nearly 27,000 members backed Alfonsin's aspirations, but another 42,000 thought that he had been hasty in his race, and gave the victory to Balbin.

The legend of the "heir" had definitely ended. When a reporter mentioned "heir status" to him, Alfonsin replied: "You can see how wrong they were. There can be no heirs in the Radical Party." Apart from the election results, the internal elections of 7 May 1972 had a clearcut significance for Alfonsin: they symbol of having cut the umbilical cord with the great caudillo, and of having marked the start of the race to reach the party's leadership, a task for which he still continues to use all his artillery.

Born on 13 March 1926, Alfonsin is a lawyer and a second lieutenant in the reserves; because he took his secondary courses at the General San Martin Military Academy, where his classmates, among others, included former Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy and the former governor of Santa Cruz, Commodore Ulderico Carnaghi. He began militating in Chascomus, where he published a newspaper (EL IMPARCIAL) to disseminate his political ideas. However, he went through the party ranks: At the age of 24, he was municipal councilman in Chascomus, and chairman of the district committee; he was a deputy from Buenos Aires in 1952, and vice-president of the Radical Party's bloc of provincial deputies, a seat and post that he won again in 1960. In 1963, with the Illia government, he reached the National Congress, occupying the bloc's vice-presidency and the chairmanship of the Chamber of Deputies' Budget Committee, in which he had to withstand violent onslaughts against the government's economic and fiscal policy.

Shortly after the overthrow of Arturo Illia, with the parties dissolved and the party premises closed by decree, Alfonsín attempted to remain aloof from Onganía's order, and called a press conference at the old Moreno premises at 2400. Before a score of reporters and beneath the portraits of Moises Lebensohn and Crisologo Larralde, the "former president of the former Buenos Aires UCR [Radical Civic Union]" (as was written and stated in the news media at the time) strongly criticized Onganía. Not many minutes elapsed, and the police arrived. A police chief asked a euphemistic question upon breaking into the room: "Is this a political meeting?" Alfonsín replied: "Of course, obviously it is." He was taken to the sixth police headquarters, and they imposed 30 days in jail upon him, a penalty that was lifted by the courts within a short time.

#### Between One Front and Another

With his intention of dominating the party leadership thwarted, Alfonsín began devising an even more ambitious strategy: to attain the presidency of the nation in the elections called by the Lanusse government. The specter of Juan Perón's return from Madrid hovered on the political horizon. It should be recalled that, at this time, the Justicialists were operating on two fronts: the People's Hour (in conjunction with the Radical Party personified by Ricardo Balbín), and the Justicialist Front, with the Development Party and other allies. Alfonsín wanted to play a different card, dissociated from the People's Hour, the Great National Accord or the Front. In an interview at the time, he commented: "Peronism and its leader are uncertain and unpredictable. Perón might return as much to reach accord as to kick over the chessboard."

At that time, the attorney from Chascomús appeared to be particularly enigmatic, and systematically denied the possibility that he would launch his presidential candidacy. Nevertheless, on 30 August 1972, the La Plata "Movement of Intransigence and Renewal" launched his pre-candidacy; and subsequently the Raúl Alfonsín-Conrado Storani ticket was to appear. Although it lacked the official nature of an act of proclamation, the ticket was introduced at a rally held at Río Cuarto, Córdoba, at which Hipólito Solari Yrigoyen, now exiled in France, also spoke. Storani delivered a lengthy speech, paying homage to "all the political prisoners and those who filled the country's streets with their blood." And he warned: "We are seeking the peaceful electoral course of action to make the change. But if that course is denied us, we shall seek whatever is fitting." Alfonsín, for his part, claimed that, "The Radical party must not go out seeking votes from the right." At that time, the country was experiencing a crucial phase, and violence was proliferating virulently.

Alfonsín was involved in many ideological discussions, and his greatest mobilizing force lay in the university councils, through "Purple Fringe."

In October 1972, the weekly PANORAMA (discussing the already "heated" Radical internal situation) stated that it was not nonsense to think that Alfonsín might fight shoulder to shoulder with Balbín in the election. The magazine, with esteem among political and intellectual circles, printed: "That could have occurred in January, when Alfonsín represented a reflection of the Balbinist apparatus to the most leftist-oriented members of UCR established in the interior, more precisely in Córdoba. It was the time when Carlos Becerra, Storani himself, Aldo Tessio from Santa Fe and Roberto Cabiche from Buenos Aires were prowling around the assemblies



of the National Encounter of Argentines. Militating close to these radicalized efforts were sympathizers with the nationalization programs and the battle against "the regime," as well as the UCR's university legions grouped together in Purple Fringe. (...) In the end, these Radicals who were identified by their solidarity with a man dissociated from the party ranks (the Cordoban trade unionist, Agustin Tosco), managed to pool all their efforts in the Renewal Movement's ticket and program."

Eventually, on 26 November, the Radicals voted, and the Ricardo Balbin-Eduardo Gammond ticket won.

#### Change of Pace

After the elections of March 1973 (Campora-Solano Lima asserted their authority), the attorney from Chascomus (who usually wears dark suits, with a vest, and glasses only for reading) caused another political bomb to explode: He called for the resignation of Balbin and the national leadership as a whole. He accused them of having made mistakes which caused the defeat of the Radicals at the polls. He claimed that they had stifled the criticism of the dictatorship, that they had preached pacification instead of revolution, and that they had not fulfilled the expectations of the youth. Of course, Balbin did not resign, despite the fact that the reorganization of the Radical Party was the bone of contention in Alfonsin's speeches for several months.

In July 1973, the vice-president of the Senate, Jose Antonio Allende, received the resignations of Campora and Solano Lima. There was under way the political operation that would lead the Peron spouses to the height of power. But before the Peron-Peron ticket was officially proclaimed, persistent rumors were circulating, mentioning a possible Peron-Balbin ticket. This possibility (his close associates recall) caused great annoyance to Alfonsin, who rejected any attempt at government shared with the Peronists. At a political meeting at which some reporters had also slipped in, he described the institutional actions that were being planned as "regrettable," and said that those maneuvers were a blow from the right.

Also at that time, Alfonsin issued a warning on the influence being acquired by the trade union bureaucracy, which evoked rage from Jose Ignacio Rucci, secretary general of CGT [General Confederation of Labor], who responded: "That politician has been aroused by the 'gorilla' quality that he carries inside him. Alfonsin is for the dissociation of Argentines, while Ricardo Balbin has come out in favor of national reconstruction." Strangely enough, the issue of trade union excesses surfaced again 10 years later, with the offensive launched by Alfonsin against Lorenzo Miguel. During that entire period, Alfonsin criticized the good relationship that Peron and Balbin had, and more than once commented to those who were willing to listen to him: "We do not want social meetings, but rather responsible criticism."

In the internal elections of 12 May, Alfonsin was again defeated by Balbin, and achieved his own nomination as delegate to the national committee only by a minority in the Buenos Aires district. At the end of April 1975, he started another one of his usual tours of American and European countries to contact personages of different ideological persuasions, but particularly the movements



related to Social Democracy. It was often commented (one could never ascertain with what degree of error or accuracy) that the leader of Renewal and Change might be the protagonist of Social Democracy in Argentina; but Alfonsin always denied that he was planning a political accord with projection abroad. It is said that he has an excellent image in France, particularly in the Socialist government of Francois Mitterrand, and that he maintains excellent dialog with Antoine Blanca, the head of the French Socialist Party's Latin American Section. In the view of the French (according to comments made by friends and foes), Alfonsin is the only first-ranking Argentine leader with a consistent doctrine and an explicit government program. One of the reasons for this phenomenon (not the only one, of course) is that during his visits to Paris, Alfonsin distributed more than 250 copies of his book, "The Argentine Question," among French politicians, and performed the same task in the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Sweden and Great Britain. His political foes, moreover, usually claim with the utmost ease that, every time Alfonsin travels, "he is going out to seek support," while his allies insist that the leader of Renewal and Change is contriving a major network of top-level international contacts, for when the time comes to govern. In any event (transcending the childish obscurantist maneuvers of the national political folklore), one thing is certain: Alfonsin is becoming the best known presidential pre-candidate in the major power centers, and he is also the politician most sought after by the foreign journalists coming to Argentina.

#### The Other Strategy

Alfonsin was always one of the Radicals who most harshly criticized the military government which was started in March 1976, and he began gathering around him the "hardest" members of UCR. The two most notorious sides of his criticism of the military are: the economic policy, and the issue of the missing persons. When May 1982 was approaching, he launched another one of his controversial initiatives, which his National Line foes described as a partisan coup d'etat: He attempted to oust Carlos Contin from the chairmanship of the national committee, replacing him with Arturo Illia who, according to that plan, would then be proposed as civilian president of the nation, to lead the process of transition to democracy. The plenary convened in July (with a sizable group of Renewal and Change friends on the premises) ratified Contin as chairman. In a strong exchange of words, Contin accused him of being "the man who has divided the Radical Party, a perpetual loser who has not won a single one of the internal elections." That brought on an uproar, which in the end did not have any major consequences; and the issue was settled in the best Radical style: raising hands to see who were in favor or opposed to each proposal. Recovered from the obstacle, Alfonsin began laying the groundwork to launch his own presidential pre-candidacy, which was proclaimed at a packed Luna Park (with plenty of fanfare) on 7 December of last year, accompanied by Victor Martinez, following a strategic agreement with the Cordoba Line.

As is stated in the best informed Radical circles, Alfonsin has his strategy already well determined, far exceeding what is usually known on the political surface. His prime aspiration (those sources have recently claimed) is to assume a personal leadership and make a substantial change in the present image of the Radical Party: something like officiating at a new historical cycle of the UCR.

Of course, the first step is to win the internal election and assume the party leadership. There may be two variants in this regard: Alfonsin may be chairman

of the national committee, or Juan Carlos Pugliese (National Line) may finally jump the fence and be president of the transition, just as Crisologo Larralde headed the party for 2 years, planning the advent of the Balbin era.

Starting there, the strategy might call for these variants:

Retrieving and updating the causes of Balbin, taking away from National Line the label of "historical perpetuator" of the Balbinist movement. If this is achieved, the Alfonsinists estimate that there will be a disbanding of their foes, who uphold the De la Rúa-Perette ticket.

Alfonsin's new Radicalism would bring to the surface again the battle against the "vices of Peronism," so that the core of the multiparty group and of a new political movement would pass through the Radical Party and not the Peronist Party.

With the foregoing point, destroying the Radical-Peronist idyll started by Peron-Balbin and continued by Bittel-Contín in the multiparty entity. This might be one of the reasons which prompted him to denounce the military-trade union pact.

Peronism is considered to be in the best objective position to win the forthcoming elections, although Alfonsin does not preclude the possibility of being the next president. In this connection, since it is estimated that the next government will not act to excel but rather to wear out the one exercising it, the new Radicalism would resume its traditional opposition role. With the party management in his hands, Alfonsin's great moment would arrive then.

As major areas of support, the Radical action in the trade unions might be spurred on, and there might be an intensification of the militancy in the university area, where Renewal and Change already has a very sizable base.

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COSTA MENDEZ: NOT A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 20 May 83 pp 28-30

[Interview with Nicanor Costa Mendez by Horacio de Dios; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Why do Graham Greene's novels attract you so much?

[Answer] He is a great writer; he has style and a great deal of humor; he devises his plots very well; and he has a philosophical, political and even sociological sense. His novels contain biography, and even more of his autobiography, conveying his ideas, his life, his adventures and his anxieties.

[Question] Are you a good reader?

[Answer] That would have to be asked of the books (smiling); but I have always been a voracious reader. I spend the day reading. Even during the period when I was engaged extensively in sports, I read a great deal. Since childhood, I have read all that I was able to.

[Question] What were you reading during the Malvinas conflict?

[Answer] Cables, and press material; but I made time to read other things after lunch or dinner: political books, biographies or autobiographies.

[Question] Which authors?

[Answer] Kissinger, of course, and Tocqueville; and Raymond Aron's "Peace and War Among the Nations," which I always peruse; and books which are highly technical but very appealing, concerning the solutions to international disputes.

[Question] Churchill used to read detective stories during the war. Have you read anything similar?

[Answer] There was no time for fiction. Sometimes, everyday life was so dramatic that it surpassed any work of the imagination. Each individual has his own style. Churchill was a great man. As for me, biographies and history have been sufficient escape for me.

[Question] Speaking of autobiographies and memoirs, why is there such scant material in Argentina, particularly in recent decades?

[Answer] They are very few in number: those of General Iriarte, or General Paz. Roca did not leave behind a line of political memoirs, nor did Hipolito Yrigoyen. Just imagine how important it would have been. Nicolas Avellaneda has 12 volumes which I have in my library, and I have read much relating to his presidency. The two major Argentine producers of memoirs are Alberdi and Sarmiento; their books are basically autobiographical. I have also read, and still read Paul Groussac's "Those Who Have passed."

[Question] And in this connection, when will you publish your memoirs?

[Answer] Now I realize why memoirs are so difficult, and why so few are published. They can be self-praise or praise of those surrounding one, or something serious and stringent, like Chateaubriand's "Memoirs From Beyond the Grave"; but he published them posthumously.

[Question] In any event you are writing them.

[Answer] I have the rough drafts of four parts: my youth and the politics that I experienced through my father, and those periods at the university; then the embassy in Chile, where I learned a great deal, witnessing the creation and triumph of Christian Democracy with Frei as its leader; the third is devoted to my 3 years as Ongania's minister; and the final part covering 6 months, but 6 months of such intensity that they may have surpassed all the others combined in influence.

[Question] Why is what we know about the Malvinas so ambiguous?

[Answer] I think that it is because many things are unknown. I do not feel authorized to publish everything. There is a commission that is operating. I think that the three commanders in chief at that time, one of whom was also president, have to say something. For the present, I am only discussing the facts that are publicly known; but there are other decisions which I certainly did not make, and on which I should not yet comment.

[Question] Why are the investigations among each of the branches of Armed Forces, or the Rattenbach commission, for military use exclusively?

[Answer] It does not appear to me that this will always be the case. That is beyond my control, and even my knowledge.

[Question] Is your silence your own decision, or that of the government of which you were a member?

[Answer] It is my own personal decision, out of respect for that government's authorities and those who are currently investigating; but at the proper time, when I deem it fitting, I shall tell everything that I know.

[Question] Is it true that, upon offering you the foreign ministry, General Galtieri let you know in advance his intention regarding the Malvinas?

[Answer] No, what he said, and what has been written in the government's directives was that, as of 1982, a forceful action would be started aimed at recovering the Malvinas.

[Question] How should the phrase "forceful action" be interpreted?

[Answer] At that time, as I read and interpreted it, it was diplomatic. Subsequently, consideration was in some way given to the possibility of action that would go further; but until the Georgias episode no decision had been made on the diplomatic level, at least with regard to occupation.

[Question] Two months prior to 2 April, in his column in LA PRENSA, Iglesias Rouco announced preparations.

[Answer] You know that the preparations dated back long before 1 January 1982. To some extent, there was always the notion that the islands should have been occupied.

[Question] There are many incidents during those 75 days the controversy concerning which has not yet died down. For example, your trip to Havana, when you are so anti-communist.

[Question] I believe that this issue has been sufficiently clarified but, at any rate, I would like to tell you a few things. First: During the course of a war, and a war with Great Britain, when one is foreign minister and spends his time at international conferences and on dialog with the highest ranking leaders in the world, if one does not perceive something and if his thinking is not changed somewhat, the fact is that he is either hamstrung or he is an ideolog who is unacceptable as a politician. Second: As I have mentioned so often, the trip was not an official visit to Cuba, but rather for the meeting of the ministers of the nonaligned nations to which Argentina had belonged as a full member for nearly 10 years. Neither the country nor I, who was its incidental representative, changed our ideological position at all. Third: We never sought an alliance. Cuba gave us its diplomatic backing, and we accepted it, because there was no give-and-take.

[Question] And what about the embrace with Fidel Castro?

[Answer] Nixon did not hesitate to travel to Peking and to embrace Mao. Carter did the same thing with Brezhnev in Moscow; and Sadat with Begin, in Jerusalem. As for Castro as a person, his weight cannot be ignored. Just as I believe that no communist would have missed the opportunity to meet Churchill, Roosevelt, De Gaulle or Kennedy, I think that no democrat would have done so in the case of Stalin or Mao.

[Question] Another consequence of the war has been poor relations with the United States. Could they be improved?

[Answer] We must make the relationship clearer and determine the coinciding and diverging interests. We are geographically boundless nations, with enormous living spaces; nations which should have good trade, even though we are not complementary. Moreover, two premises must be upheld: the independence of the Argentine decision, and the fact that Latin America should be united in its relations with the United States.



[Question] To change the subject: Isn't it a discourtesy not to have given the Pope a response, after the government has been cognizant of his proposal regarding the Beagle for 2 and a half years?

[Answer] I don't know whether it is a discourtesy, but in any event there has been too much delay. I think that peace is necessary, that we are in the realm of mediation and should not leave it, and that it is fitting to speed up the dialog; because time is not working in our favor.

[Question] Do you think that your current popularity and political opportunity stem from your action concerning the Malvinas?

[Answer] If you are referring to some opinion polls, such as the one published by SOMOS, considering the fact that I am not a candidate and am not engaging in any publicity, I am gratified. I believe that there are various circumstances involved herein. One of them is the influence of the visual media on public opinion. For 75 days, my face has been associated with an exploit that united all Argentines at that time; and I have no doubt that it has had an effect. Another is the fact that people noted, if not efficacy, at least a total dedication to the task, and a very great conviction concerning what I did. Finally, there is the issue of sovereignty and national independence.

[Question] The remarkable thing is that much of that sympathy has arisen among individuals more closely related to Peronism than to the center in which you are a militant.

[Answer] I would not say Peronists exactly or exclusively, but rather popular sectors which have a more direct and realistic perception, with a great deal of national sentiment. I have no doubt that other sectors do not feel the same way; but at best they act more circumspectly, and that is not always good.

[Question] When did you initiate your activity in politics?

[Answer] Well, one always engaged in politics at the university. I later left it, and engaged in my profession until 1961, when Foreign Minister Carcano offered me the position of adviser. My active political life began then, with entrances and exits; but I never left the professor's position, nor did I stop publishing articles on foreign policy.

[Question] Were you a Frondizist when you agreed to be Carcano's adviser?

[Answer] I was not a Frondizist at that time, but I always had great respect for Dr Arturo Frondizi, and I believe that his proposal was modern and valuable.

[Question] Why did you have your main positions in military governments?

[Answer] Because, mistakenly, without doubt, and contrary to my father's desires and advice, I did not join a party, as I should have done; and so, since I did not have that status, the military governments, which were always seeking technocrats to some extent, called upon me. I do not regard myself as a technocrat, but since I was a university professor and published on these subjects, I could be viewed as a specialist.

[Question] If you had followed your father's advice, what would your party have been?

[Answer] It was my father's wish that I join his party, the Democratic Party of Cordoba, a modern democratic party. He did not want to be called a conservative.

[Question] Why is conservative a bad word in Argentine politics?

[Answer] It is not a bad word, at least not to me. But it is true; there is a discreditation of that term in our country; and that is not the case in the rest of the world. There are many modern countries with conservative governments.

[Question] Wouldn't it be feasible to call things by their true name?

[Answer] That seems marvelous to me.

[Question] It is like a tic that we have; the same thing holds true even with individuals. The last president's name is Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, but everyone calls her Mrs Isabel. Why?

[Answer] I know very little about psychology, and nothing about psychoanalysis; but you seem to me to be a psychoanalyst with your questions. Why is there no conservative party that is called conservative? In Chile, there are conservatives opposing liberals; and in Uruguay, the same thing exists. In the United States, the Republicans do not mind one of their branches being called conservative; just as the Democrats have liberal lines.

[Question] Here, liberal appears to be synonymous only with economic liberalism.

[Answer] We would have to discuss seriously whether liberalism has to be political and economic liberalism, or whether, as has occurred so often, it can be economic liberalism without being political, or vice versa. I would tell you that I obviously advocate a political and not economic liberalism for Argentina.

[Question] Why are you announcing in advance your rejection of a possible presidential candidacy?

[Answer] For many reasons. I have neither qualifications, nor political experience nor background for that candidacy. Furthermore, my name is controversial; I do not think that my name would unite the center forces.

[Question] Why is such great importance attached to the future Congress?

[Answer] Our Constitution speaks of a separation of powers, and I think that the checks and balances of Congress are essential to the health and stability of the Republic.

[Question] There will be several candidates for president, and only one will attain the position. Wouldn't it be feasible for them to run simultaneously for deputy?

[Answer] There is no obstacle from a constitutional standpoint, and it would be very beneficial from a political standpoint. There are precedents. This is more than common in Europe.



[Question] Why are there so many potential candidates in the center, and yet it lacks homogeneous strength as a party?

[Answer] They have the same difficulties that all the parties have. The center party, although it is not formally unified, does in fact exist. Actually, the different parties are lines and movements, in the same degree to which they exist among the Radicals or the Peronists. There is competition; we should not even call it strife. There is competition among individuals, and that is not reprehensible.

[Question] Would a Third Force, as Acuna Anzorena calls it, or one of the center, as it is usually described, help the institutional stability?

[Answer] The consolidation of that movement is the best contribution that we who are neither Radicals nor Peronists can make to the country's stability.

[Question] Will the system of proportional representation which ensures political pluralism contribute to that stabilization?

[Answer] As is always the case when two systems are compared, there are arguments for and against; but at the present time, and for several years, it is both feasible and necessary to have Radicals, Justicialists and Centrists existing and coexisting democratically.

[Question] Let us discuss your polio. Does the topic bother you?

[Answer] It does not bother me at all. It was during the big epidemic in 1956. I had sent my family away just to protect it. I thought that, because of my age, 33, I was free of the possibility of becoming ill.

[Question] When did you realize that it was not a high temperature due to the flu or something of the sort?

[Answer] I realized it when I fell to the floor and lost consciousness. Up until then, I did not think that it could be polio.

[Question] How did you recover?

[Answer] I was a shipwrecked person. If I did not make the effort, if I did not swim, I would drown. I realized that this was a game that I had to win. My wife, Mecha, was a wonderful support, as were my friends.

[Question] You could no longer play rugby or tennis.

[Answer] That is true, but sports activity had left me a great lesson for fighting.

[Question] At that time, did you consider moving from a theoretical interest in politics to political activity?

[Answer] I had not considered it. You are making me consider it. At best, that experience, which caused me to value human solidarity more, and to have an awareness and a greater sensitivity regarding my neighbor's suffering, in a way led me to politics, which after all is a great task on behalf of the community.

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## GRONDONA TERMS PLANNED AMNESTY AS GRAVE ERROR

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 13 May 83 p 18

[Article by Mariano Grondona: "On the Eve of the Amnesty"]

[Text] The wide gamut of comments received by the Armed Forces' document on the antisubversive battle in the country and abroad includes a series of views ranging from the harshest criticism (Pertini, the Plaza de Mayo Mothers and Monsignor Zaspé) to the admission that this is a "positive but insufficient" step on the path toward the solution of the problem of the missing persons (Argentine Bishops Conference).

Nevertheless, none of these views is based on a systematic evaluation of what was good or bad, not in the document, but rather in the antisubversive battle as such. The country should rise to the level of a "doctrine" capable of discerning what was legitimate and illegitimate about the repression. We cannot throw the matter at the collective unconscious, as another type of repression, because we would never bury it. We must now attempt, not a judgment of the Armed Forces' document (claiming that it is bad does not exhaust the issue), but rather an infinitely more important judgment of the process to which the document refers.

What was good and what was bad about the antisubversive battle? We might say, first, that as things appeared in 1975, when President Isabel Peron gave the Armed Forces the order to "annihilate" the guerrillas, there was no solution other than internal war, in the style of El Salvador. For that situation, to imagine an entirely conventional repression, with judges and police exclusively, was utopian, and suicidal. The first responsibility crops up here: Who were to blame for the country's reaching the painful need in 1975 to declare an internal war, or rather to accept the war declared for it by an irregular army of 10,000 men, with the greatest jeopardy? There is no doubt in my mind: The blame lies with the Congress of 1973, which granted amnesty to the guerrillas' elite, whom President Lanusse, however, had protected with judges and police, in a legal fashion. It is in this act of supreme irresponsibility that one must place the origin of what happened later. If we must confess all the blame, it would have to begin here.

That is why it was necessary to wage war in 1975. But this harsh necessity could not conceal two types of action: one, those operations which were carried out on the basis of interests dissociated from the battle and at the cost of persons of an unquestionably democratic background, such as Elena Holmberg, Hector Hidalgo Sola, Edgardo Sajon and so many others. These deviations, as well as any other

abuse committed on the occasion of the war, but not for it, cannot merit consideration; they must be investigated both inside and "outside" of the Armed Forces, because the latter cannot constitute a special, airtight bailiwick, not subject to jurisdictional controls and superior to them.

The other type of action is more complex. The war entailed confrontations, in which there was killing and death. These were legitimate deaths. On the other hand, were those which reportedly occurred "after" the confrontation, in jails or places of detention? Obviously not. It was fitting to hold "prisoners of war" at the disposal of the Executive Branch so long as the emergency lasted; but in the end they would have to be subjected to legal trials, legal trials of the utmost severity, but never to clandestine executions.

Other questions deserve answers. Was it lawful to overthrow Isabel in order to consummate the battle against subversion? At the time, many thought so. Today, it appears less clear. In any event, it was unacceptable to prolong the process which began in 1976 in the name of the antisubversive battle for 8 years. By about 1978, the war had been won, and it was fitting to return to constitutional normality. Today, the Armed Forces must be the first to regret the damage which followed the useless prolongation from 1978 to 1984.

In short, it should be asked why, during all these years, the police and the courts were not prepared with suitable laws and forces to confront, in the future, the possibility of a new wave of terror "within" the Constitution, and not outside of it and in opposition to it. This lack of foresight is perhaps the greatest offense, inasmuch as it has left open the possibility of a repetition of 1976 in 1986. And this is the least tolerable of all: that no lesson has been learned, that the mistakes and errors of the 1970's have not improved our capacity for a constitutional response to the potential challenges of the 1980's.

Now, the Armed Forces are preparing a self-amnesty law which, to gain force, would cover not only the repressors who committed abuses, but also the surviving guerrillas. That would be another mistake.

The future of the Argentines is open to other options: the devising of a broad consensus regarding an "antisubversive doctrine" with a constitutional basis and a national scope. Recognition, on the basis of the doctrine, by the leading political groups of the need to defend the country against terrorism and, in this connection, regret for the irresponsible amnesty of 1973. Admission by the Armed Forces, for their part, of the mistakes made throughout the antisubversion process, and hence, acceptance of the action of superior courts as a sign of abiding by the Constitution. And preparation of the country by civilians and military for not only an effective defense, but also a legal one against possible further outbreaks of terrorism, to prevent a repetition of 1976 in 1986. It is only in a context such as this, based on a civilian-military consensus that is missing at present, that one can speak of amnesty and pacification. Otherwise, the self-amnesty of the military will only aggravate the division and the confusion among the Argentines regarding a vital issue.

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## SHIPBUILDING UP SIXFOLD OVER PAST 7 YEARS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 May 83 Sec 2 p 2

[Text] The dead-weight tonnage of construction at Argentine shipyards is up 6.6-fold from 1976, according to statistics released by the Secretariat of Maritime Interests (SEIM) on its seventh anniversary.

"The consistent and earnest application of the policies worked out by the National Directorate of the Shipbuilding Industry since the creation of the SEIM on 26 May 1976 has resulted in sustained growth in this activity," the report states.

It adds that this growth "was interrupted only when in late 1981 the Economy Ministry abolished the National Merchant Marine Fund, which was an essential tool for the expansion because it enabled Argentine shipowners to have access to sound funds for shipbuilding. This secretariat is engaged in urgent efforts to have this fund reinstated."

The document notes that "one of the major gambles of the policy was that it sought to impose severe demands in terms of cost and delivery times in bids in an effort to make Argentine shipyards increasingly economical, efficient and prompt and, thus, competitive with the major traditional maritime countries."

The statistics released by the SEIM indicate that in 1976 Argentine shipyards delivered vessels with a total dead-weight of 29,071 tons.

The numbers for subsequent years were 67,683 in 1977, 68,920 in 1978, 67,353 in 1979, 110,860 in 1980, 158,175 in 1981 and 194,334 in 1982.

"Although this does not appear in the statistics, we should point out that largely as a result of the gains in efficiency, delivery schedules and cost-cutting (basic aims of the SEIM policy), there has been a significant rise in exports from Argentina's shipyards. A recent example was an exploration platform for the oil basin in the Middle East, and right now high-tonnage vessels are being constructed for Poland and other countries," the report underscores.

It bears mentioning that in the period prior to the establishment of the SEIM shipbuilding in Argentine yards totaled 36,191 dead-weight tons in 1975, 35,895 in 1974, 33,927 in 1973, 29,255 in 1972, 41,525 in 1971, 13,314 in 1970 and 14,457 in 1969. (NA)

UIA WILLING TO FORM PACT WITH A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 May 83 Sec 3 p 1

[Text] Directors of the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) and Peronist economists agree on the need to hammer out an "economic-social pact" for the upcoming constitutional period.

In this regard, according to Francisco Blas, the UIA secretary, the union would agree to be party to a social pact sponsored by Peronism or whatever party wins the next elections if it dealt with "the main economic variables."

The UIA leader made these remarks at the close of a meeting between union executives and Peronist economists.

Top-level UIA leaders were conspicuously absent from the meeting, presumably because the top echelons of Peronism failed to attend as well.

Representing the business group were Jacques Hirsch, treasurer; Francisco Blas, secretary; Pedro Reyna, assistant secretary; Eduardo Goyeneche, adviser, and Jorge Bogo, counsel, while the visitors were Alfredo Gomez Morales, Eduardo Setti and Carlos Spadone, the latter a representative of the 62 Organizations.

Both the businessmen and the politicians agreed at the close of their meeting that although there was a consensus on the need for an economic-social pact, there were also "clear-cut differences" on other issues such as wages, social benefits and the involvement of government in the economy.

Blas maintained that the UIA and the Peronist leaders agreed "on the need to pursue the dialogue to lend support to the democratic process" and that to this end "a comprehensive agreement" was necessary "in which the majority of economic variables have to be considered."

In this regard, Setti noted that his party advocates that the pact cover "prices, wages and investment," but Gomez Morales added that the commitment "should be total: economic and social." (NA)



## ARMED FORCES PAUSE TO RECONSIDER TIMING OF AMNESTY LAW

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 28 May 83 p 1

[Text] There is no longer any possibility that the Military Junta will approve a two-pronged amnesty (for military and security forces personnel, and for subversives) by the end of this month or early June.

Thus, the rumors that the Military Junta has already approved the first draft of an amnesty law are wide of the mark. This law is most often referred to euphemistically as a "national pacification" law, so that the military does not have to resort to the dirty word "amnesty."

The fact is that the Military Junta has not yet taken such a text under consideration. The highest-level discussions so far have been among the secretaries general or political secretaries of the army, navy and air force. There have been several rough drafts of an amnesty or pacification bill, but at this point we can say that a definitive version has not yet been agreed on.

In recent weeks the army at least has been taking an increasingly flexible approach, aimed at increasing the number of situations to which an amnesty law would apply.

"Is it worthwhile," asked a military observer, "to exclude those found guilty of homicide, when no more than 30 or 40 of them could benefit from such a law?"

"Is it worthwhile to exclude subversive leaders, when we know how difficult it is to categorize a 'leader' in a penal context? After all, there isn't a single lawsuit against Firmenich..."

"Is it worthwhile to exclude military personnel convicted of excesses during the repression by military tribunals?"

What the military government seems most concerned about at this juncture is the timing rather than the content of an amnesty law. Precisely for this reason the following view has come to the fore recently: an amnesty law should take effect after it is "talked over" with the authorities that the parties choose for themselves at the close of their current reorganization. That would not happen before August.

This leads to one final point. An amnesty for those convicted of subversive crimes would, in the judgment of political observers, back the military into a corner on the issue of Mrs Peron. In other words, it would force them to consider commuting her penalty of permanent ineligibility to hold public office.

If her penalty were commuted, it could have an impact on developments within the Justicialist Party before it or, rather, its national convention, chooses the party's presidential ticket. It would be a different story by late August or, perhaps, September, because the election campaign would be in full swing, with all candidates officially nominated.

In the final accounting, the prevailing view in the Interior Ministry, which is being pressured by certain Peronist leaders seeking a regulation forcing all parties to select their candidates by a direct vote of their affiliates, is that the government should not meddle in party affairs.

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## DAILY NOTES FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S 'UNUSUAL ATTITUDE'

PY270335 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 May 83 p A-3

[Editorial: "Unusual Attitude"]

[Text] In a language smacking of ancient anathemas, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson has accused, in his country's parliament, the Chilean regime of being "a curse to its people." In a similar vein, the French Socialist Party--through a communique--and the procommunist and prosocialist French unions supported by CUTCH [United Workers Confederation of Chile]--through a demonstration in front of our embassy in Paris--have expressed their support for the protest demonstrations staged in Santiago on 11 May.

The critical propensity of the French left is nothing new. We just have to recall Mitterrand's visit to Chile during the Allende government; the presence of the main socialist and communist leaders, who now hold government positions, in protest demonstrations in front of our embassy in Paris after the events of 11 September 1973; and many other attitudes directed not only against Chile during the present socialist regime. That attitude of the French left has not changed because of the anti-Soviet stand regarding the debate on armament or regarding the espionage episode. On the contrary, the French left shows its real self when it insists on intervening in the problems of Latin America and the Third World.

Disregarding the antidemocratic character of its interventions, the French regime favors are generously extended to Marxist governments while its "curses" fall upon those who have fought Marxism. It should be recalled here, in contrast to Cheysson's recent statements, the sale of French arms to Nicaragua, the French-Cuban friendship, Prime Minister Mauroy's pronouncements in support of the "national liberation movements which fight against oppression" in Latin America.

This way the French Government is in fact subscribing to the tenets of the socialist international to which its leaders serve. It should be noted that at a meeting in Mexico in 1979, Mario Soares, justifying armed violence in Nicaragua, said that "the Chilean revolution failed because nobody gave it a hand."

As some observers of French politics point out: As the failure of the French socialist model looms larger and as French public opinion turns against it--Alain Peyrefitte says that the French believe that the socialism of the Socialist Party looks like a brother of the socialism of the Communist Party--the government turns its attention beyond France's borders.

In its vigorous protest against the French interference, the Chilean Foreign Ministry has quite properly invoked the principle of nonintervention to which our country has traditionally adhered.

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## BRIEFS

NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL--The National Superior Land Transportation Council was created today. The council is made up of the following organs: The National Truck Owners Confederation; the National Taxi Drivers Confederation; the National Confederation of Rural, Intercity, and International Transportation Unions; the National Bus Owners Federation; and the Federation of Bus Owners Unions of the fifth region. The objectives of the council will be the following: 1. Carry out studies on land transportation; 2. guide the union activities of its member organs and 3. propose measures to resolve transportation problems. [Excerpt] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 May 83]

NEW MERCHANT VESSEL--The new ship "Presidente Gonzalez Videla" was officially received by the state maritime enterprise in a ceremony held on 23 May. This recently built ship is named after the late Chilean president. It will fly the Panamanian flag. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 May 83 p C44]

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## FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES NONALIGNED MOVEMENT

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Mar 83 pp 14-17

[Interview with Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations Isidoro Malmierca by Alberto Rubiera; date and place not given]

[Text] Only a few hours remained prior to the inauguration in New Delhi of the seventh meeting of the heads of state or government of the member nations in the Movement of Nonaligned Countries. There was special activity at the Cuban foreign ministry, where the work is always intensive.

Minister Malmierca was at the heart of this activity, logically, but we were not surprised when on greeting us, he gave the impression that he had all the time in the world to answer our questions. We have been familiar with this characteristic of his, as firm as it is serene, almost phlegmatic, since his youthful years, when he was one of the organizers of the Youth Parliament, rallying all of the progressive young peoples' organizations in the country to combat the corruption of the Prío government (1948-52). He was one of the main figures of the Youth Movement for World Peace in that same era, and a short time later, he headed one of the clandestine youth organizations which fought against the tyranny of Batista.

We were aware, then, that we should not cause him to waste his time. Therefore we had prepared a brief questionnaire and we began with our first question.

[Question] With the holding of the Seventh Summit Conference of the Non-aligned Movement in India, the period in which Cuba presided over that organization comes to an end. Do you believe that the decisions of the Sixth Summit have been implemented? What role has Cuba played in this?

[Answer] The Movement of Nonaligned Countries comes to its Seventh Summit Conference more united than ever, more active than ever, and with the fidelity to its principles and goals which have characterized it during its more than 20 years of existence.

I can without hesitation state that in this period during which Cuba has presided over the movement, we have worked zealously for the implementation of the agreements of the Sixth Summit Conference, and not only Cuba and its president, Comrade Fidel Castro, but the vast majority of the member nations of the movement have done everything possible to see that the mandate of the Sixth Summit was carried out, as it has been.

The imperialists predicted that the Sixth Summit would be that which would split the movement, but it strengthened unity, cohesion and the active capacity of the nonaligned nations and represented a step forward in the role played in international bodies by the movement.

Comrade Fidel Castro served as president of the movement in the midst of a virulent campaign directed by the imperialists and the international reactionaries, designed first of all to sabotage the holding of the conference in Havana, and later to prevent the implementation of its agreements.

Cuba took over the presidency of the movement during a complex and difficult international situation made more acute by the tension and strained relations concerning old and new subjects of conflict.

The actions of President Fidel Castro have led to the recognition of the member nations in the movement, as was made clear at various meetings preceding the Seventh Summit.

Cuba put forth its best efforts to ensure that the holding of the Seventh Summit would be a success for the movement, in order to safeguard its unity at a time when it was obvious that this conference could not be held on the date and at the place planned, i.e., in Baghdad in September of 1982. After engaging in broad consultations with the member nations, President Fidel Castro presented the proposal that the summit meeting be held in India in the early months of 1983. We must emphasize the selflessness shown by the Iraqi chief of state, President Saddam Husayn, and the important contribution made by the government of India, headed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the next president of our movement, in accepting the tremendous task of organizing the Seventh Conference in such a short time. This fact is palpable proof of the interest and dedication with which we have seen to the unity of our movement and its capacity for action in these years. While the imperialist news agencies engage in speculation on the uncertain future of the movement, our chiefs of state are seeking a formula for safeguarding this cohesion which is so important to all.

The Movement of Nonaligned Nations has increased its capacity to exert a positive influence on the solution of the principal international problems. The member nations have joined in their efforts to denounce the policy of adventurism, provocation and nuclear rearmament, confrontation and an accelerated armaments race which the Reagan administration is implementing. They have engaged in multiple activities designed to express their solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of South Africa who are subject to the domination and exploitation of the apartheid regime. They have expressed their solidarity with the countries of the Front Line, which are victims of the aggression of the regime in Pretoria, as well as the Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples who are the victims of Zionist aggression, and the struggle of the peoples of Latin America for their liberation and for the defense of their independence and sovereignty.

The struggle against the vestiges of colonial domination throughout the world, against neocolonialism and imperialism, against racism, including

Zionism and apartheid, have been the banners of our movement in its activity and the center of its practical actions within the various international bodies.

#### Cohesion Has Been Strengthened

[Question] In these 3 years, events have taken place in the world which have tested the efficiency of the movement. Do you believe that it has emerged triumphant from these tests?

[Answer] In these 3 years, events which have tested the unity of the movement and its capacity of action have occurred--events such as the Zionist attack on Lebanon and the siege of Beirut, the war to reestablish colonial domination in the Falkland Islands, the efforts of the South African racists, supported by the North American imperialists, to establish a neocolonial regime in Namibia, and the serious tensions in Central America caused by the aggressive policy of the government of the United States, designed to maintain its neocolonial domination in the area and to implement its efforts to liquidate the Nicaraguan revolution.

All of these situations have put the capacity of the movement for action to the test. In each of these instances it has responded with fidelity to its principles and goals. The nonaligned nations have firmly voiced their solidarity with the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia, and they have on numerous occasions demanded that Resolution 435 of the Security Council, which is the just basis for the independence of Namibia, be implemented.

The movement organized a special ministerial meeting of its Coordination Bureau in Algiers in April of 1981. At that meeting, a plan of action for increasing solidarity and aid to the struggle of the people of Namibia was drafted. It was decided to convoke the Security Council for an analysis of the serious situation in southern Africa, and this meeting was attended by a considerable number of the foreign relations ministers of the nonaligned nations.

Regrettably, the council was unable to approve a decision to this effect because of a veto by the United States government, which proclaimed that South Africa is its strategic ally on that continent. In view of this failure, the nonaligned nations decided to convoke a special session of the General Assembly to analyze the problem of Namibian independence. And in the resolutions submitted by the nonaligned nations to that session and approved there, the support of the movement for the struggle of the people of Namibia was set forth in full firmness and clarity.

More recently, the government of the United States has urged, or rather has tried to link Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. This effort, apart from representing intervention in the internal affairs of Angola, is designed to promote achievement, in indirect fashion, of the goals the imperialists set themselves when they launched the South African aggression against Angola in 1975 at the time it won its independence.



The Front Line nations, the independent countries of Africa and the Movement of Nonaligned Nations have rejected this imperialist maneuver most energetically, as set forth in the final documents of the ministerial plenum held by the movement in New Delhi in 1982, and in the final document of the Managua meeting.

The movement has always believed that the problem of Palestine is the heart of the conflict in the Middle East, and that there can be no just and enduring solution to this situation unless the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are recognized, unless the PLO is recognized as their sole legitimate representative, and unless their right to have an independent state in Palestine is implemented.

The policy of the American imperialists, who support the expansionist plans of Israel, which they regard as their strategic ally in the zone, reached its highest point of contempt for the norms of international law and world public opinion with the barbarous attack on Lebanon, the siege of Beirut, the savage bombing of West Beirut and the genocide of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The imperialists, through Israel, are seeking the annihilation of the PLO, even at the cost of the broadest international repudiation of their actions. It must be emphasized first of all that these actions did not succeed in achieving the goal because of the heroic and unyielding attitude of the Palestinian people, headed by the PLO, in defense of their national rights. But it must be added that at a time when other regional international organizations may be paralyzed because of the actions, pressure and maneuvers of the imperialists, the Movement of Nonaligned Nations responded with determination and with the necessary speed, expressing its condemnation of the aggression and its unlimited support of the cause of the Palestinian people, also promoting activities of solidarity in international bodies and taking the matter up with the members of the Security Council with a view to halting the Zionist-imperialist war machinery and sensitizing international public opinion.

The value of these actions by the movement has been recognized by the leaders of the Palestinian resistance and by President Yasser Arafat.

At the time of the Anglo-American aggression against Argentina, undertaken to reestablish colonial domination over the Falkland Islands, the movement made great efforts to prevent it from happening and to find a peaceful negotiated solution to this conflict. It made the greatest efforts to prevent a warlike confrontation which might develop incalculable proportions from occurring.

Regrettably, ignoring the resolutions of the Security Council and the appeals of the Coordination Bureau of the movement, the imperialists went ahead with their punitive expedition. The movement most forcefully reiterated its support of the legitimate right of the Argentine republic to reestablish its sovereignty over the Falkland, South Georgia and Sandwich Islands. It expressed its desire to see this process carried out by means of negotiations, and it urged the United Kingdom to initiate negotiations with the government of the Argentine republic again under the auspices of the secretary general of the United Nations Organization.

In this instance as in the preceding ones, the movement remained faithful to its principles.

The ministerial meeting of the Coordination Bureau held in January of 1983 in Managua was a demonstrable and irrefutable example of the fidelity of the movement to its principles and goals. The denunciation of the interventionist activities of the North American imperialists in Central America, the rejection of the American government's efforts to represent this situation as the result of the so-called East-West confrontation, the solidarity expressed with the people and government of Nicaragua, the support of the peace proposals put forth by Mexico and Venezuela and Mexico and France, the recognition that the situation in El Salvador could only be resolved by means of negotiations involving all the representative political forces in this country--one of which, the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front], has made constructive proposals in this connection--represent proof that the Movement of Nonaligned Nations has been able to implement and to remain faithful to its principles, goals and traditions.

We could mention other instances and other situations which, because of their seriousness, are of interest to the entire international community, such as the problems pertaining to the struggle against the armaments race, particularly where nuclear weapons are concerned; the struggle for disarmament, in which the nonaligned nations have played an outstanding role; the struggle for the establishment of a new international economic order and the launching of the global negotiations. All of these are problems in which it has not been possible to advance further during these years because of the aggressive policy of the imperialists, a policy of negotiating from positions of strength which has led the world to a situation of cold war resurgence.

But the Movement of Nonaligned Nations has maintained a determined and firm position in the defense of the interests of its members, which are the interests of mankind.

[Question] The imperialists and their lackeys engage in every type of maneuver in their effort to destroy the unity of the movement and to distort its anti-imperialist orientation. How have these attacks been evidenced during the period just ending, and how has the organization resisted? Could you mention specific examples?

[Answer] The imperialist maneuvers designed to destroy the unity of the movement and to influence its orientation are not new. But they have undergone a resurgence in the period just ending, in other words the period coinciding with Cuba's presidency of the movement.

The first reason is that in view of the seriousness of the international situation caused by the aggressive policy of the imperialists, the movement has struggled actively to impose on international relations the principles which have governed it since its founding--in other words, opposition to the cold war policy, to the division of the world into spheres of influence, to the use or the threat of the use of force in international relations, the

struggle against racism and Zionism, support of the struggle of the peoples to eliminate colonialism and against neocolonial domination, and against interference and intervention by foreign powers in the internal affairs of nations.

Even in those instances when it has not been possible to prevent the implementation of imperialist aggression, the movement has strongly condemned and denounced each such aggression and has mobilized its forces and international public opinion against these actions. The imperialists therefore find themselves forced to take the Movement of Nonaligned Nations into account seriously as a major and independent force in international relations opposed to imperialist policy. It is for this reason that the maneuvers and the pressures in an effort to weaken the capacity of the movement for action, to sow divisiveness in its ranks, on the basis of the fact that the movement is heterogeneously composed, are recurrent.

In this period, the first imperialist maneuvers were designed to prevent the Sixth Summit Meeting from being held in Havana, and when that attempt failed, an effort was made to limit the number of those who would attend and the level of the delegations. However, the Sixth Summit Conference was attended by a number of delegations and chiefs of state in excess of the number attending any of the previous conferences of the movement.

The imperialists tried to ensure the failure of the conference by making capital of the very complicated matters with which the Sixth Summit would deal: the issue of Kampuchean representation and condemnation of the signing of the Camp David agreements. The analysis of these problems was complicated, but the chiefs of state found solutions which were just and acceptable to the movement.

In October of 1981, a few days before the ministerial plenum of the Movement of Nonaligned Nations was to be held at the United Nations prior to the 36th Session of the General Assembly, one of the most blatant efforts to influence the positions of the movement and the member nations occurred when Mrs Kirkpatrick, the permanent delegate of the United States to the UN sent a letter to a considerable number of the representatives of the movement urging them to dissociate themselves from the final resolution of that meeting, more precisely those paragraphs in which the imperialist policy of the government of the United States in various areas was condemned. This action was publicly known.

We can state that the number of reservations expressed for those paragraphs after Mrs Kirkpatrick's letter became known was minimal, and this intervention in the internal affairs of these nations was clearly rejected by the member nations of the movement.

Some months later, the United States Senate approved the Moynihan amendment to the foreign aid budget for 1982, whereby so-called U.S. government aid to the developing countries was made conditional upon their attitude in international bodies, and the Movement of Nonaligned Nations in particular, toward U.S. policy.

This has been one of the most brutal and flagrant efforts to utilize economic blackmail and food supplies as a means of exerting political pressure on the member nations of the movement in hopes of altering its anti-imperialist nature.

Following these events there were those in Lebanon, and we all know how the movement responded to this imperialist aggression.

Later, in October of 1982, the ministerial plenum was held in New York and in January of 1983, the special ministerial meeting was held in Managua. We have already spoken of its results, and at that meeting, the imperialists tried to exert influence by providing a number of delegations with a document containing the positions of the United States government, in the hope that these would be introduced into the final statement.

All of these efforts to divide or paralyze the movement have failed, because the imperialists do not take into account the fact that the reasons, goals and principles which unite the member nations of the movement are vital to their existence as independent and sovereign countries, and these interests are much stronger than any private or temporary interest a country may have.

The movement represents a great deal to the member nations. It represents solidarity in the struggle to transform the existing unjust international relations, and the struggle to safeguard their independence and sovereignty. And the member nations cannot sacrifice this for any passing interest.

[Question] The reactionaries try to deny that Cuba is a nonaligned nation, using as a pretext its close fraternal links with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist camp. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] What has existed and still exists is a calculated campaign organized by the U.S. government in which it uses the power its control over the international communications media gives it in order first to try to erode the prestige Cuba has won internationally because of the consistent fashion in which it has pursued its foreign policy, while on the other hand, this campaign seeks the goal of depriving the resolutions adopted by the movement condemning U.S. policy of their validity. The U.S. government and the multinational media have attempted to set forth an entirely distorted version of the reality. They have said and continue to say that Cuba has sought to align the movement with the positions of the Soviet Union, and that Cuba has imposed decisions on the movement which are not consistent with its original principles. This is a great fallacy.

It is inconceivable that a country or even a group of countries could impose a line of action on the movement, could make the chiefs of state of the member nations or their foreign ministers accept documents with which they do not agree. In a certain sense, this represents a great lack of respect for the chiefs of state of the member nations of the movement.

These forces conceal the fact that Cuba did not preside either at the meetings held in India, the ministerial meeting held in Delhi in 1981, or the



extraordinary meetings of the Coordination Bureau held in Algiers, Nicosia and Nicaragua, nor did it preside over the committees which drafted the agendas for these meetings. The countries which had this responsibility and which established whether or not there was a consensus on the final documents of these meetings were India, Nigeria, Algeria, Cyprus, Nicaragua and Uganda.

The Cuban delegation was represented among the officers for these meetings and as acting president of the movement, but the board of officers was always composed of delegations reflecting the heterogeneity of the movement. It never occurred, with any of these documents, which are those which bother the imperialists most, that any member nation of the movement objected, nor was any protest ever submitted about the fashion in which these meetings were conducted. The same was the case with the meetings over which Cuba presided, both in New York and in Havana.

This is a campaign designed to confuse international public opinion. The governments of the member nations of the movement are fully aware of that. What has never occurred is coverage of the final documents of the meetings of the movement by the imperialist news agencies.

As to the status of Cuba as a nonaligned nation, it is only challenged, with evil intent, by the U.S. government, and some other governments which imitate it outside the movement. It is not questioned within the movement, in which our country has worked tirelessly for the defense of its unity, its capacity for action and its principles. Cuba is not a participant in any of the military pacts conceived within the context of the cold war, and the only military base on its territory is there against the will of the government and the people of Cuba. That is the naval base at Guantanamo Bay, which the government of the United States maintains there illegally.

[Question] How do you see the future of the nonaligned nations under the presidency of India?

[Answer] We view the future of the movement with optimism, because its existence, its growth, its development and the increase in its influence respond to a vital need of the developing countries, the peoples who are struggling to win their freedom or to safeguard their independence and sovereignty.

The goals and the needs which link the nonaligned nations are much stronger and more important than the minor problems which sometimes divide us, the majority of them provoked or instigated by the imperialists.

In this period during which Cuba served in the presidency of the movement, it has had to deal with very complicated situations within the international complex of problems, and in these situations the movement has shown its strength, its unity and its capacity for action, and we are persuaded that they will continue to be evidenced in the future.

Cuba has worked to maintain the unity of the movement, its capacity for action, its fidelity to the principles on which it is based and the goals it

seeks. We have worked tirelessly in this direction, but it would not have been possible to overcome all the obstacles which have been encountered were it not for the profound feeling of the countries which make up the movement.

India is one of the founding countries of the movement, a country active in the struggle for the principles and the unity of the movement since its creation, a country which highly values the existence and the role of the movement. That is why we hope that under the presidency of the prime minister of India, Her Excellency Mrs Indira Gandhi, the movement will continue to play the ever increasingly important role which falls to it in international relations.

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## STATUS OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT ANALYZED

## Militia Activities

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 17, 28 Apr 83 pp 4-5

[Article by Lesmes La Rosa: "Julio and His Kids"]

[Text] "Comrades, the task this afternoon will be hard. The 'contras' have sought to take a certain hill, but they will never be able to take any one of these hills, which were those of Sandino," Lieutenant Chema emphasized decisively.

It was very early in the morning, and after talking with this officer, we traveled to another sector in this zone which, it might be said in passing, is called Quilali. We arrived at the hamlet of Murra and stopped at an elevation several kilometers from it. Although we were some distance away from the La Virgen Hill, we could see what was happening there. As the Nicaraguans put it, the "turqueo" had already begun. One could hear heavy rifle and mortar fire, while tongues of flame and columns of smoke began to appear.

Thanks to intercepted enemy communications, it was possible to assess (or more accurately, to feel contempt for) the low combat morale. They were desperately begging for reinforcements. They spoke of being unable to resist. This radio message between "contra" units was indicative:

"If you can, get off a round (of mortar fire) and get out quickly. The Sandinists-communists are firing heavily..."

Night was falling and the explosions still continued. On the morning of the following day, we met Capt Oscar (Chele) Cortes of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), who commands this entire sector. His camouflage suit was covered with a dense layer of dust. Broad dark rings marked his face. He spoke with a note of triumph and emotion:

"The battle was hard, comrades! The Somoza guards fled toward Honduras. We killed something like 20 of them, but it is not possible to know the exact number, since departing in disarray, they discarded corpses and equipment as they went. We left personnel behind to search the zone. I would like to suggest that you talk with Sub-Lieutenant Rodriguez. He and his unit played a decisive role in the battle of La Virgen Hill."

## Constant Readiness

In Murra, we awaited the arrival of the officer. When he came, it was not possible to exchange impressions immediately.

"Brothers, wait a moment for me. I am going to escort the comrades to the rear so that they can get something to eat. They have had a hard fight."

Some minutes later, we had the interview we sought with Sub-Lt Rodriguez Gamez, who is only 24 years of age, a native of Managua. He attempted amiably to avoid any questions of a personal nature, and in a tone of respect, explained to us:

"Comrades Candelario Martinez, Carlos Calero Carranza, Tomas Guerrero and Henry Ruiz fell in this battle. We have sworn to follow their example and to combat the aggressor to the very end. Moreover, my unit is ready to carry out any mission the revolutionary government and the national leadership may order."

We proceeded to reconstruct the event. Julio removed his beret (similar to those of our territorial troop militias), stroked the already thick beard he had grown in the heat of combat, organized his thoughts, and said:

"I had a reserve unit made up of very young men, almost kids. They are students and workers from Managua. We were summoned from the place we were stationed by a combat alarm. We went to the staging area, where we were given our orders. We had to undertake a march of more than 18 kilometers through hills and ravines. Opposite Ojo de Agua we saw indications of enemy movement. We supposed that we would make contact at any moment."

"Six kilometers farther on, we saw something which outraged and inflamed us: the initials of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN). In the end, this increased our combat morale. I divided up our forces and ordered an advance from three approaches, each with the assignment to attack, pursue and annihilate. Later, we rested briefly and then continued our march."

## A Rocket Attack in Response

"Less than a kilometer from La Virgen Hill, we were informed of the presence of the 'contras.' One of our reconnaissance patrols detected military forces 400-500 meters away. We took precautions and asked them for identification. They were impudent enough to answer 'FDN, the Nicaraguan liberation force.' We rapidly responded with a barrage of rockets, which I regard as symbolic, because we intended to state thereby that the true liberators in Nicaragua are only the people, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], the Sandinist army, the Ministry of Interior, the militia and reserve forces."

"And so the battle began, with heavy fire. At a point of vantage for the 'contras,' there was a rifle and machine gun nest which blocked our advance. Then reservist Candelario Martinez, from the San Judas quarter in Managua, took off like a bullet with his machine gun, firing on the nest and wiping

it out. This comrade fell as a hero, and his action threw the enemy into confusion, although they tried to hold out. We were engaged in frontal combat at a distance of only 100 yards.

"We reported the situation to our superiors. We received the order to stand firm. We took three positions forcefully, led by Comrades Tano Garcia, Luis Raquena and myself. Firing constantly, we surrounded the counterrevolutionaries. In the morning a fine breakfast was sent to us, reinforcement by the comrades from an Irregular Struggle unit and another from the Struggle Against Somoza Bands (LCBS). We mounted an attack and from the height of the enemy position, Comrade Yovi Garcia shouted the slogan 'A Free Fatherland, Or Death!' and thus we dealt the final blow at La Virgen Hill.

"The 'contras,' trained by the imperialists, operate as a task force, but their defeat is guaranteed whenever they come up against the strength of the Nicaraguan people."

These final words of the interview are being implemented in deeds every day in the legendary Segovia range. We had the honor to witness this fact.

#### LCBS Head Interviewed

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 18, 5 May 83 pp 6-9

[Interview with LCBS head Alvaro Baltodano Cantarero, by Lesmes La Rosa: "Battle to the Final Victory"; Somewhere in Northern Nicaragua; date not specified]

[Text] We traveled to a far-off point in the north of Nicaragua to meet with the troop commander of Struggle Against Somoza Bands (LCBS). At a command post located in the very heart of the operations, we were welcomed by Commander Alvaro Baltodano Cantarero, a young veteran of the revolutionary struggle. He fought first in the Sandinist National Liberation Front, and he now serves with the Sandinist People's Army, in which he has been given such great responsibility. The interview took place in the tense atmosphere surrounding the struggle to the death against the counterrevolutionary bands which the imperialists have infiltrated here in Nicaragua.

The walls of his office were covered with large working maps. On them appeared various blue arrows starting in Honduras, in other words the very place where the current aggressive escalation by the Pentagon and the CIA originates. We exchanged warm greetings with the high EPS officer. After dealing with a telephone call and making himself comfortable in a chair, he told us:

"You can begin when you wish, brother."

[Question] First of all, commander, I would like you to describe the origins and development of the units included in the Struggle Against Somoza Bands.

[Answer] The struggle began with the beginning of the revolution, in the very first month. The vast majority of the former Somoza guards had fled to Honduras. They were in the famous refugee camps which existed in the

territory of that country and they were disorganized. However, some remained in Nicaragua and joined together in the historic bands of criminals, assassins and rustlers which engaged in the pursuits of banditry.

On the other hand, the imperialists, relying on the most reactionary sectors in the area, in Honduras specifically, organized Somoza's myrmidons and gave them a new form. In other words, the bands would increasingly take on the aspect of a counterrevolutionary army. It was then decided by the national leadership of the FSLN, the command of the Sandinist People's Army and the Ministry of the Interior to create this body in 1981.

The present and now more aggressive counterrevolutionary escalation represents a qualitative leap from the military point of view. They have established units as task forces, with specific commands and a general staff which has its headquarters in Honduras, and they are advised by U.S., Israeli, Argentine and Honduran officers.

Therefore the body known as the Struggle Against Somoza Bands was strengthened with other commands and troops specializing in this form of struggle. We have a central command and others in various places in the country, depending on the situation the enemy creates. In order to combat these bands, we rely on battalions specializing in guerrilla struggle, both reserve and permanent. The number increases or decreases consistent with the circumstances.

The goals of this body involve first of all combatting counterrevolutionary armed activity, acquiring more experience in this type of struggle, synthesizing and publicizing it in order to deal with the aggression by the imperialists and the enemies of the Sandinist revolution definitively and with greater capacity.

[Question] What are the characteristics of the command cadres of the LCBS?

[Answer] Both the central headquarters and the commands formed in the specific places where the counterrevolutionary bands are active are made up of commanders and officers of the Sandinist People's Army with broad revolutionary experience, seasoned in the guerrilla and clandestine struggle and also in combat against gangs. They are comrades with great moral authority in the eyes of the troops and profound military virtues. Many of them have taken specialized courses.

[Question] What have the main activities of the counterrevolutionary bands been in the course of this year?

In response to this question, Commander Baltodano walked to a wall map, took up a pointer, indicated several places and said:

[Answer] In January, through our units, we established that an aggressive escalation was planned by the counterrevolutionaries. It was first drafted by their general staff in Honduras. They organized task forces, designated commanders and enrolled a whole series of counterrevolutionaries and former

Somoza guards in schools. Then they reached the second stage, that is to say infiltration into our territory, at the end of January, which gained in intensity in the early days of February.

The task forces, of which there were seven, were headed by known criminals, myrmidons of the dictatorship. As soon as we detected infiltrations we began to make military contact with them. A series of clashes occurred, such that they could not penetrate with impunity. By this I mean that there was no question of their entering freely and situating themselves without being detected by anyone. They had problems with the penetration. Of the penetrating task forces, there are two which succeeded in reaching the interior of the country--those headed by "Tono" and "Renato," which penetrated our territory in depth, in other words, reaching the mountainous area in the department of Matagalpa.

The other five task forces which came in later stayed in the northern part of the country, in Jinotega and Nueva Segovia. And they were dealt harsh blows as soon as they arrived.

The task force commanded by a myrmidon of the National Guard known as "Anibal" operated in the northern part of Jinotega. We began confrontations with it and it was broken up in that very month of February. A number of individuals were killed, and in addition a group commander who had been an officer in the Somoza Guard--Roger Sandino--was captured, along with a large quantity of weapons. "Anibal" himself was wounded and was taken to Honduras.

One of the most important counterrevolutionary task forces is that headed by "Suicide," which established itself in Nueva Segovia. This was a group of 400 to 500 men. We inflicted innumerable casualties upon it. During the month of March, we engaged it 28 times, and in only three of the battles, we killed 60 counterrevolutionaries. Because of our constant pursuit, the time came when this group could not remain in our territory, and it departed for Honduras. We followed as far as the frontier. "Suicide" and his people are currently in Honduran territory. This force will later try to reenter the country, because it has a place in which to regroup and resupply itself, receiving new weapons, communications and a series of other facilities from the Honduran army, the accomplice in this aggression.

Another important group is that of the myrmidon Benito, known as "Bravo," which set out to operate in the San Juan area of the Coco-Telpaneca River. We clashed with this band, inflicted casualties and took prisoners. We determined the direction it would pursue and we moved in troops, in this case the Coro de Angeles (Angels Chorus) irregular combat battalion, and we annihilated one group.

The task force led by "Anibal" also withdrew toward Honduras. The group headed by "Richard" received a pounding in Jinotega and lost its combat capacity, although some scattered groups remain. It should be noted that this area is extremely rugged and heavily wooded. This enables them to continue guerrilla fighting somewhat, in an effort to save themselves, but with inadequate offensive capacity.



The gangs headed by "Tono" and "Renato" engaged in only one military operation, when they attacked a site at which we had a unit of the 19 July Sandinist Youth. They killed a number of our comrades who were valuable to the revolution. Then they sought to operate in the Matagalpa-Boaco zone and to move closer to Waslala. But we moved troops toward them and began to engage them, to inflict casualties and to break up the gangs. For all practical purposes, they lost contact with Honduras. They could find neither supplies nor collaborators in the zone. In their despair, they advanced a few days ago toward the little village of Rancho Grande, looking for food, and encountering resistance they shelled it, causing casualties among the civilian population. We are operating with one irregular combat battalion and another reserve battalion from Waslala. In pursuit, we have engaged them several times, killing 50 counterrevolutionaries and capturing weapons and mules. The remains of the bands have begun to move toward the north of the country and to flee toward Honduras.

The task forces, apart from other details, are made up of between 260 and 270 men. Each of them includes three groups of 60 to 70 individuals. The bands are failing in the goal of their initial infiltration in terms of occupying and holding positions. There are groups which remain and engage in ambushing civilian trucks, assassinating peasants, etc. Despite all this, the bands can continue to function as long as they can rely on Honduras for support.

[Question] How have the combat morale of the Sandinist fighters and their resistance to the aggressive escalation been evidenced?

[Answer] When the aggressive escalation occurred, the command of the Sandinist People's Army decided to mobilize a series of reserve units for combat against the bands. These battalions are made up of people from the cities and the countryside. Also, units of the 19 July Sandinist Youth were mobilized. This is not the first time these battalions have been mobilized for this type of struggle, for all have had military experience. In this country, there is not a single battalion, either reserve or regular, which has not engaged in combat since the revolutionary triumph.

We have reserve battalions which have been mobilized for 5 months, and despite the fact that the families of these combatants remain in their places of origin and sometimes pose some problems, the combat readiness and combat morale are truly admirable.

It is precisely this same combat readiness and capacity on the part of our units which is teaching the counterrevolutionaries a great lesson. We could speak of innumerable battalions made up of anonymous comrades, true sons of the people, which maintain high combat readiness. For them the moment of greatest enthusiasm is in battle. For example, when a unit remains inactive for a day or two for some reason, they begin to ask why they are not sent out, why they are not sent to the combat zones. The reserve battalions are acquiring great experience, and we have succeeded in making them into real military units, trained on the battlefield itself.



[Question] What is the present situation with regard to counterrevolutionary activity?

[Answer] In the Matagalpa-Jinotega zone, we initially estimated the counter-revolutionary group at 300-350. What they did was to operate for a short time, staying in the region long enough to kill peasants, burn some state production units, collect economic tribute, etc. The task force was broken up, but some groups still remain. Obviously, they have no offensive capacity.

Counterrevolutionary activity is focusing again in the northern part of the country. The band led by Benito "Bravo" is operating 10 to 15 kilometers from the frontier. It penetrates, functions and maintains a force in our country, but it has not been able to carry out any large-scale military action. We continue to pursue this force, and have had various clashes with it, killing 15 "contras" in recent days and seizing weapons. We will in the end dislodge them from our territory.

"Suicide" and his task force are in Honduras. We cannot specify exactly where they plan to enter. We are taking precautions at various points. We will defeat them and dislodge them.

The northern part of Jinotega is the most mountainous and it is very difficult to operate there. The most recent battles, such as that in El Cua, in which we killed 26 of the enemy and wounded a large number, have occurred in that area. We continue to engage the task force which functions there. It is large and dangerous. They are attempting to reorganize the scattered groups in the northern part of Kilambe and Jinotega. There are about 40 counterrevolutionaries dead. We are hoping for positive results.

The counterrevolutionary plan directed by the imperialists, the CIA, the most reactionary factions in Honduras and its army has collapsed. Currently, the counterrevolutionaries are on the defensive, trying to hold up as well as possible in order to win more imperialist support. We can state that the previously planned escalation is on the wane.

This does not mean, and it is important to stress this, that counterrevolutionary activity in Nicaragua will cease. It will continue as long as there is an empire like the United States to sustain it, to provide it with weapons, facilities and logistic support, and as long as it can take refuge in Honduran territory.

But the most important thing is that the revolution has defeated the National Guard again. If we conquered it in July of 1979 with inferior weaponry, it was logical that we could defeat it today with much greater ease. This is a popular struggle in which all of us united participate, and this has enabled us to deal harsh blows to the counterrevolution. We will pursue the struggle, continuing to learn and to fight, until final victory is won.

[Question] I have no further questions, and I thank you for your statements, commander.

[Answer] Before we conclude, I would like to send fraternal greetings to the people of Cuba because of the great solidarity they have always shown toward us. On behalf of the combatants, we send our thanks to the Cubans for the internationalist aid they have given us in the fields of education, health and the economy.

History has united our brotherly peoples in the struggle against imperialism. Some years ago you passed through stages like these, and you know how hard it is to combat enemy bands. You know what it means to shed the blood of the best sons of the fatherland, and you also know that the defense of the revolution is necessary and cannot be postponed.

If you would be so good, I would also like, through VERDE OLIVO, to send special greetings to the comrades in the Cuban Armed Forces.

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## PRESIDENT REAGAN'S 27 APRIL SPEECH CRITICIZED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 18, 5 May 83 pp 4-5

[Commentary by Elpidio Valdivia: "Second-Hand Imperialist Pathos"]

[Text] When the review of Ronald Reagan's presidential term is made (perhaps at a not too distant date), his speech to the joint session of the U.S. Congress on Wednesday, 27 April will, without a shadow of doubt, be a remarkably dark page in a period that has been of itself rather gloomy for United States foreign policy.

Announced with self-interested anticipation, surrounded by the spectacular aspect that is given to the remarkable procedure of gathering both legislative chambers to hear a presidential message, awaited as a crucial occasion in the definition of a policy that would offer changes in the critical Central American situation, the text that Ronald Reagan delivered this time in his role as president turned out to be merely a monotonous, but dangerous reiteration of the line selected by the White House for dealing with its neighbors and their conflicts, most closely located.

To expect the contrary from one who concluded his previous major public appearance, on Wednesday, 23 March (also aimed at soliciting more funds for his warlike endeavors), with an appeal with incalculable consequences for the militarization of outer space, would actually have meant giving the spokesman for Republican interests and his collaborators credit for a fundamental understanding of the contemporary realities, the absolute lack of which has now been proven midway in his term.

Faced with a regional crisis which his own administration and political stupidity have helped to take to its current proportions, and the growing opposition in Congress to the granting of more funds or powers that could lead to a United States commitment in Central America on unimagined levels, the president of the United States found no better course of action than to resort again to the high-sounding rhetoric of the cold war to back his increasingly ambitious aim of regional hegemony.

With the narrow purpose of obtaining the legislators' hesitant approval for \$110 million in additional funds to be sent to El Salvador, and of paving the way for the \$700 million that he has already announced as essential for next year, Ronald Reagan reiterated the premises that the Republican Party has employed with particular insistence in its analysis of the Central American situation, from the programmatic Declaration of Santa Fe to the most recent statements of the retrogressive ideologists of its meager Latin American policy.

Hence, the American president did not hesitate to put forth before the joint session of his nation's Congress the same arguments (and even identical phrases) that his proconsul in the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, had expressed only a week earlier, in an article with the significant title "Communism in Central America," which appeared in the pages of the WASHINGTON POST.

The hackneyed specters of Soviet expansion in the United States' "back yard," the threat to American national security hovering in the "strategic zone" of the Caribbean, the introduction of the revolution in the region by external agents and, in particular, the attempt to dissipate the annoying persistence of the so-called "Vietnam syndrome," were borrowed from Kirkpatrick in this presidential address, which at least could not be accused of being original.

Nevertheless, President Reagan's speech writers offered, in addition, to representatives and senators and, through them, to the American public, indescribable accounts, such as that of a guerrilla group in Central America comprised not of "harrassed peasants," but rather of "professional guerrilla fighters," or the sad memory of the successes, and "decades of peace, prosperity and freedom" which, it was claimed, were brought about by the Truman Doctrine, a worthy historical precedent for what Ronald Reagan is now attempting to imitate in this part of the world.

Thirty-six years ago, Harry Truman stated to the American Congress: "The seriousness of the situation confronting the world today requires my appearance before the Houses of Congress, meeting in a joint session. The foreign policy and the security of this country are at stake."

A similar statement, with the same spirit and a similar wording, has now been made by President Reagan, who also did not hesitate to focus his country's policy on the neighboring states with the same view as that of James Monroe 160 years earlier.

And while the current American policy for the region, which they have turned into a testing area for their external projection based on the exacerbation of tensions and the increasingly tangible threat of confrontation, is based on precedents that are as obsolete as they are reactionary, his appearance with other closer precedents is also obvious.

The American press itself commented that the president's address "sounds like a tape recording of the speeches of American leaders 15 years ago," when, through the same course of action as that of today, the United States began a spiralling military intervention in Vietnam which ended with one of its most disgraceful contemporary wars.

Over 30 references to Nicaragua, about 20 to El Salvador, and the anticipated threats to Cuba or a priori blame placed on the Soviet Union for the American setbacks in Central America, comprise a picture of the rhetoric without proof that Ronald Reagan brought to the Congress of his country, to demand nothing more than the continuity of a regional policy which is leading the United States to another morass.

All the propagandistic resources aimed at converting this incidental speech into a supposed all-important part of United States foreign policy disintegrate by themselves upon analyzing its degraded proposals, devoid of rhetoric: a demand for

greater military and economic commitment, the appointment of a special ambassador for the region as a highly dubious expedient, the reiteration of a policy of blackmail and threats against Nicaragua, Cuba and the revolutionary movements in the area and, only in last place, a vague promise to accept the proposed path of negotiations, aimed at calming a Congress and a public which are increasingly reluctant to accept the lapse into a "Vietnamization" which is constantly ceasing to be a remote possibility in Central America.

Backed by deliberately falsified figures on the Cuban assistance to Nicaragua, demanding concern over the security of Mexico, which is really unprecedented for the president of a nation which robbed its closest neighbor of over 2.5 million square kilometers, and reiterating the lack of options and common sense which has led the White House to its current dilemma in Central America, last Wednesday President Reagan again preferred the fruitless, adventurous cudgel that he is wielding in the area as a general test of the unrealistic intentions of restoring to the United States an alleged "world supremacy that has been lost."

The results of Ronald Reagan's speech to both Houses of Congress are already plentiful: a wave of criticism inside and outside of his own party, inside and outside of the United States; a greater uncertainty about Congress' acceptance of the policy that is being proposed to it; and a more steadfast conviction among those whom he is attempting to intimidate that this mediocre piece of second-hand imperialist pathos and the aggressive designs that it involves will not change the course of history, not even in Central America.

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## NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE URGED; U.S., OTHERS SCORED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 17, 28 Apr 83 pp 14-15

[Commentary by Rafael Rojo: "Yes To Independence"]

[Text] Contrary to all the condemnations and opposition from the international community, from 1975 until the present South Africa has increased its military presence 50 times over in the illegally occupied Namibia, in a futile effort to retain perpetually its colonization of that territory.

During recent weeks, regular South African troops and mercenaries paid by that country have reinforced their deployment in the southern section of Angola, in addition to having increased the attacks against this independent African nation and the other countries which are members of the Front Line and Lesotho.

With this policy of provocation and militarism, it is no surprise that South Africa, which devotes enormous resources to the development of the military industry, including nuclear technology, with the approval and the scientific and technical cooperation of the West, particularly the United States, is in favor of having North American "Cruise" missiles installed on its soil.

A secret agreement for that purpose was recently concluded by Washington and Pretoria, according to a disclosure by news sources in Mozambique.

As confirmation of this dangerous military escalation, the South African radio broadcasting network itself announced that the Ministry of Defense and Security is constructing a 38,000-hectare proving ground to test new weapons in Cape Province.

The possible siting of the land version of the "Cruise" missiles, whose range of about 2,500 kilometers would allow them to reach economic and military targets in all the Front Line countries, proves the current and future plans of the Washington-Pretoria combination, intended to perpetuate the exploitation of the abundant strategic natural resources in the Southern Cone of Africa.

Upon assuming the presidency of the United States in early 1981, Ronald Reagan declared: "Can we abandon a country which has remained on our side in all the wars we have waged; a country which is strategically essential in the free world owing to its production of minerals which we need so much?"



In order to justify its strategic alliance with the South African Government, the Reagan administration is practicing what it terms a "policy of constructive participation" in southern Africa, for the purpose of attempting to softpedal the demands from the nations of that continent which, without exception, condemn the apartheid system.

Behind that euphemism they are attempting to conceal their true intentions and to heighten their relations of all types with South Africa to the maximum extent, while at the same time claiming, with the greatest cynicism, that they will continue fighting to eradicate apartheid, without failing to aid the development of the African nations.

Nevertheless, it is well known that the American assistance flows only to certain nations considered by Washington to be vital to its policy of "global restraint on communism," countries whose governments are docile and complacent toward the differing demands of the Yankee Pentagon, CIA and State Department. Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Zaire and South Africa constitute some of the best examples of this self-interested generosity from the United States.

That policy is explained quite clearly when one considers the fact that southern Africa contains vast deposits of strategic minerals on which the production of the military industrial complex depends.

Data from American sources indicate that, in just one of the weapons systems proposed by the Reagan administration for 1986, the program for the MX missiles, the military industrial complex will have to consume no fewer than 10,000 tons of aluminum, 24 of beryllium, 2,500 of chromium, 150 of titanium, 890,000 of steel and 2.4 million of cement.

The deposits of chromium, cobalt and titanium are concentrated essentially in the southern third of Africa, where the statistics record 95 percent of the world reserves of the first-named, 86 of the minerals of the platinum group, 64 of the vanadium, 35 of the manganese, 52 of the cobalt and much of the gold, diamonds, uranium and copper, among other valuable natural resources.

Statistical information from the United States Commerce Department show that the flow of American investment capital to South Africa is constantly increasing, and that is no coincidence either.

According to those figures, in 1981 the increase in the United States' investments there grew by 13.3 percent, amounting to some \$2.63 billion; while in 1982 they reached \$2.8 billion in the chemical, mining, pharmaceutical and processing industries, among the leaders.

What has been pointed out underscores the existence of a close link between the so-called "constructive participation" of the United States in southern Africa on the one hand, and the goal of hampering the decolonization of Namibia and backing the attacks against Angola and the Front Line states on the other; for the purpose of neutralizing the solidarity and support that these nations are offering to the Namibian combatants in SWAPO [South-West African People's Association], in their just struggle for the independence of their fatherland.

Angola and SWAPO have reiterated their willingness to abide by the terms of the UN plan for Namibia's independence based on Resolution 435 of the Security Council, which has the recognition and approval of the international community.

The Contact Group for the Independence of Namibia, as the United States, France, Great Britain, Canada and the FRG have called themselves, has proven its incompetence and inefficiency for over 5 years, in its alleged attempt to provide a solution to the Namibian conflict, still on terms more favorable to Western economic interests.

Despite the propagandistic endeavor to depict Namibia's independence as an imminent fact, the reality shows that the negotiation process is still bogged down by the attempts of the United States and South Africa to impose conditions which are unacceptable to the representatives of the Namibian people and the independent nations backing them.

By mutual agreement, although they try to demonstrate the contrary in their statements, Washington and Pretoria have devised the so-called "theory of linkage," or association, which is intended to make the decolonization of Namibia contingent on other goals of their African strategy.

As the commander in chief of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, stated at the Seventh Summit of the Movement of Nonaligned Nations, the United States is seeking "to establish a link between the necessary and undeferrable withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia, where they are located contrary to the decisions and principles of the international community, and the stay in Angola of the Cuban internationalist troops, which were summoned there by its legitimate government, with the backing and praise of the Fifth Summit Conference at Colombo, to defend the territorial integrity of the Angolan nation."

This contingency has been repeatedly rejected by the African nations, even against the pressure brought to bear by the vice president of the United States, George Bush, during his recent trip to that continent, as well as by the OAU [Organization of African Unity], the UN, the nonaligned nations and other regional and international institutions.

The question of the Cuban troops in Angola is an element dissociated from Namibia's problem and the theory of the link between the two is actually intended to serve a twofold purpose: to leave South Africa, along with the counterrevolutionary gangs of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front], a free hand to continue attempting to overthrow the Angolan Government and to create a neocolony in Namibia, which will address the interests of Washington and Pretoria.

It is more than well known that the Cuban internationalist troops arrived in Angola during 1975, in response to the appeal of its legitimate government, for the sole purpose of helping to cope with the invasions of Angolan territory from South Africa in the south, and Zaire in the north.

Faced with the good sense of Angola, which has not spared efforts to reach a negotiated settlement of the dispute, leading to peace and both political and

military stability in the region, as well as to the normalization, without prerequisites, of its bilateral relations with the United States, the Reagan administration is encouraging South Africa and the counterrevolutionary gangs in their anti-Angolan action.

What explanation is there other than the aid that they are offering South Africa in all areas for the fact that the UNITA leaders are received in the United States, that the latter's spurious, insidious, propagandistic campaigns are echoed and that there is no condemnation of such infamous crimes as the kidnapping of peaceful foreign technicians, their wives and children and, to top it off, the proposal to exchange them for British mercenaries.

The Reagan administration's sustained assistance to South Africa and to the UNITA and FNLA gangs has enabled them to bomb densely populated areas, to destroy important economic targets and to assassinate helpless victims, hampering Angola's economic development and spreading an atmosphere of tension in the region.

Why are the United States and South Africa so concerned over the internationalist presence of Cuban combatants in Angola, if it is not because those troops are a restraint on the temptation toward military action aimed at overthrowing a government which is striving to guarantee bread, housing, health, education and the dignity of being free to its people.

In February 1982, the foreign ministers of Cuba and Angola gave assurance that, with Namibia's full independence, the total, unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from that territory and the termination of the aggression and threats against Angola, the conditions would be created for Angola, using its sovereign rights, to decide with Cuba on the gradual withdrawal of the Cuban troops on the terms agreed upon.

On constant occasions, the top-ranking leaders of Angola have confirmed their complete adherence to the terms of that joint declaration; and the supreme Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, has reaffirmed that Cuba will always accept Angola's sovereign decision, without any hesitation.

While SWAPO, which has international recognition and solidarity, is continuing its just political and armed struggle in the illegally occupied territory of Namibia, until South Africa yields to the universal outcry demanding its independence.

Against the attempts at imperialist blackmail and the perpetuation of colonialism, the victory of the African peoples is assured and certain, owing to their determination to struggle and to the international solidarity that this just cause has aroused.

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## RANGER COMMUNICATIONS UNIT TRAINING NOTED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 18, 5 May 83 pp 30-33

[Article by Pablo Noa: "Communications Personnel Who Do Not Fail"]

[Text] The decisive role played in contemporary combined-arms combat by communications is not secret to anybody. The equipment used here is fundamental in exercising unit command and powerfully influences the development and outcome of combat operations.

Wartime experience proves that uninterrupted unit command is impossible without secure and efficient communications. Loss of command inevitably leads to failure. This conclusion is today more valid than ever before. This is why special attention is being devoted in our units to the overall training of fighting men so that they may be able to carry out their missions rapidly and with high quality.

We were recently able to look into many aspects of the process used in training these specialists during a visit we made to a small communications unit at the Ranger Headquarters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

#### Small Unit in Training Area

There are various factors which determine communications security in the accomplishment of the tasks involved. One of them is the commander's ability to organize communications in accordance with the specific situation he faces, the methods he applies in his work, and the training level of personnel operating the equipment. We were easily able to observe that element during the classes that were being taught in the training area.

2d Lt Jorge Rivero Diaz, the radio platoon leader, was in charge of special training for communications personnel. The training consisted of a special tactical class during which the communications personnel were trained in handling the equipment.

"Here we stress individual skill in handling the tasks of each fightingman," the young officer told us.

"At the end of the special tactical training session," he added, "the serviceman is ready efficiently to accomplish his study tasks and this means, in other words, carrying out his combat missions in wartime with a high degree of quality."



During the training process, the enlistedmen are given the technical knowledge necessary so as to permit them to carry out their duties in an efficient manner. The men must also learn how to handle the equipment used by the radio stations, its characteristics and possibilities. Then comes another instruction phase.

A command voice broke the silence and a group of fightingmen jumped out of the vehicles and began to recover the antennas. This activity is required in closing the station down. They accomplish the order with precision energy, until the stations are ready to leave for another location out in the field and once again to deploy the equipment and establish contact within the deadline provided or, if possible, even before that. "This is a constant aspiration of our operators," said Sgt 3d Cl Arnaldo Perez Corpo, leader of an outstanding and vanguard crew in socialist competition during the first training cycle, after the end of the test.

"Out in the field you almost spontaneously get a kind of brotherly competition among crews to see who can do their job fastest in the shortest possible time and to top the established norms. This helps raise the combat level and individual and group commitment," the sergeant pointed out.

Each member of the unit has a clear purpose in mind which in the end is the highest objective to be attained in his activities: To establish communications under any circumstances at the right time and to make sure that the Ranger commander can perform his command functions.

On more than one occasion, the stations repeated a part of the class session, in response to the directions received from 2d Lieutenant Rivero to meet specific requirements. The training session in the training area ended just an hour and a half later. In his critique, the small-unit commander discussed the basic achievements and shortcomings and praised the servicemen and stations that obtained the best results during the class session. Other activities were scheduled for the afternoon. Some of these activities were on the athletic field, in study areas, and in classrooms.

#### Other Areas

Many activities are being carried in the unit simultaneously with the development of combat and political training. These activities serve to improve the living and working conditions, the quality of instruction, and the opportunities for recreation, culture, and sports.

In a brief inspection of the unit areas, we were able to observe the volume of work being done.

"We provided good impetus for a large percentage of our work activities and this is necessary for the development of life and training activities in general," explained Lt Col Gonzalez Garcia.

"We combine the outlines of the Sixth Plenum of the Party Central Committee with our activities and we raised them to the status of a work plan for the entire unit. This document is the pledge which we accepted for special competition in honor of the 30th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks and the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution," he added.

Later on he briefed us in great detail. He showed us the theater which is in the process of being finished; the communications workshop where the unit's equipment is being repaired; the construction of study facilities, the recreation area, the classroom system and the training aids, the remodeling of the motor pool, the various elements making up the landscaping and beautification of the camp, where we found outstanding the signs used for propaganda and for the description of political and party work tasks.

"There is something which I feel I must underscore," Lieutenant Colonel Garcia pointed out. "It involves the attitude of all servicemen in accomplishing the tasks which enabled them to achieve their past success. The effort made by the entire personnel force has been decisive. Everything that was built and remodeled, to a good degree, was done with our own resources."

#### Aspiring to Be Initiators

During the conversations and chats with officers, sergeants, and enlisted men in the small unit, we were able to detect in each one of them the spirit of work and confidence in final results, something which can be found in the entire unit. Right now all of them have a firm intention which is the moving force behind their activities: They are aspiring to become initiators of socialist competition at Ranger Headquarters, during the next training year, and on top of that they want to achieve an outstanding place among the communications units of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces].

"The UJC [Union of Young Communists] has been working on this effort for several months now," explained Pvt Lino Antonio Ramirez, the base organization's secretary-general. For us, the unit's tasks are the guideline that orients the course of our work. We introduce competition into all of our activities regardless of whether they have to do with combat and political training or with the improvement of living conditions, recreational facilities, sports, or culture."

As PFC Pedro Yanes Delgado pointed out later: "That is our pledge of honor and we cannot allow any detail to escape us. You have to keep up to date with this competition, you have to keep it going among ourselves, in the dormitory, in the classroom, on the firing range, in the dining hall and even out in the streets!"

"I am saying this," he continued, "because in this way we can tie ourselves in more closely with the tasks, with the environment, and with the equipment. This, at least in my particular case, has been going on for almost 2 years of pleasant experiences and learning activities in this unit."

He then again talked about the team effort and the achievements. He thought it proper to mention the names of some comrades, including Engineer Capt Pablo Diaz and civilian workers Pedro Torrecillas and Jose Barrios, although many other individuals also did outstanding work.

At any rate, nobody is ever idle in this unit. The training course is being perfected and the quality of classroom sessions and exercises is being raised.



The servicemen do their very best in carrying out their duties and everything is going well. This is the "key" to the triumph which they have been harvesting. This is why they improve work methods and consolidate progress achieved.

This is also why they are sure that they will be initiators of socialist competition.

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CSO: 3248/804

## IMPORTANCE OF FIELD EXERCISES DISCUSSED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 17, 28 Apr 83 pp 38-39

[Article by Mario Rodriguez: "Just Like in Combat"]

[Text] Under current conditions, combat operations develop with unusual speed; this is why the tactical situation keeps changing constantly. As a result, the role of the leader as the top man in charge of combat and the organizer of combat operations keep growing more and more today than ever before.

The capacity of analyzing the existing situation in its full dimension and anticipating its future development must be one of the main qualities in commanders on all echelons.

This is why it is quite naturally necessary to provide for meticulous and systematic training which will make it possible to firm up the theoretical and practical knowledge that is indispensable for unit command, including in the most complicated situations.

Any prediction on the development of combat operations by the commander must be backed up by full mastery of the enemy's tactical procedures and standards and an overall knowledge of the terrain in which military operations are to be carried out.

To attain this objective, the commander must make maximum use of the terrain, he must know how to exploit its protective properties, he must know the relief, the way the terrain can be crossed, and other elements that can enrich or modify the decision to be made. It is not easy to achieve all that.

Being able to implement the decision in practical terms means placing men and equipment according to the idea conceived, anticipating the execution of the maneuver both with units and with fire, correctly organizing cooperation where operations are to be carried out; this is something that requires a high level of habits and skills and this is not achieved without a good dose of systematicity and perseverance.

There are cases of officers, especially young ones, who, when assigning missions to small units, feel almost "scared" in looking at the lines on the map instead making broader use of the scene of operations.

We still recall the visit which we recently paid to the Central Army where we with pleasure observed the assurance with which small unit commanders directed the training of their subordinates.

Cpts Jacinto Gonzalez Marquez and Hector A. Perez Preval try to develop the topics, both during unit instruction and in commander training classes from an eminently practical viewpoint. This of course does not imply that they skip over the most important definitions or that they do not list the guiding principles on one or the other question.

For them, practical work out in the field constitutes an indispensable supplement in carrying out the various training exercises, in quickly checking on unit proficiency, and working with the training models and other means.

According to these two small unit commanders, the principle that prevails in training the men under as realistic combat conditions as possible is something that must be implemented under all circumstances.

For Capt Gonzalez Marquez, for example, knowledge of the terrain is a fundamental element that must be kept in mind in organizing combat operations.

"The terrain," he points out, "with all of its elements, that is to say, the relief, population settlements, roads and highways, hydrography, the vegetation cover, etc., provides the data necessary when it comes to making the decision. This factor, along with an estimate of our troops and the enemy's troops, in the end shapes the character of combat operations.

"Subordinates must have a perfect knowledge of where they are going to fight, what the features of the defense perimeter are, the sector where the offensive must be developed or the region where they are going to have to march and where the meeting engagement will take place.

"The commander does not always have the possibility of using the map. If, for example, we are involved in night combat, this will be a little bit difficult because you will have to try to get control of the terrain with very few details."

Both Gonzalez and Perez agree that dominating the terrain is an advantage from all viewpoints. First of all, it makes it possible to figure out the character, the situation, and the idea behind enemy operations, the location of friendly troops, while at the same time it facilitates the development of mission assignments to the units, the organization of cooperation and the fire system, as well as the different types of security screens to be provided.

During commander training classes, we observed how both officers studied the terrain and the possible enemy.

This enables them to get an even more realistic idea about the region in which combat operations will be developed as well as the changes made in the area, compared to the map.

Both officers agree that systematic participation in major unit activities, with a view to the engineering preparation of the terrain, enabled them to gain greater in-depth knowledge of the theater of operations.

On the other hand, periodic visits to areas assigned for wartime operations, exercises and training sessions, as well as keeping defensive positions in proper condition--these also contributed along these lines.

In watching one of the tactical training classes, run by Capt Perez Preval, we observed the skill with which the young officer described a possible variation of the decision in the field.

With the certainty that comes from a full knowledge of the defense perimeter, the officer in an assured manner assigned the missions to the small units. He designated the reference points in the field, the layout of the "enemy" defenses, and he outlined the enemy's points of resistance and organized cooperation with every possible detail.

Shortly thereafter, in talking to him about this topic, he said:

"Keeping in mind the makeup of our commanders, since this is a cadre unit, we must make maximum use of the time these comrades spend during study conferences.

"There is not very much time during those conferences so that we cannot afford to get into merely theoretical questions. This is why we try to make utmost use of the time from the practical viewpoint.

"To do that, we are holding classes close to the defense perimeter, so that the subordinate commanders will specifically be able to figure out what their missions are, not in the classroom, but in the place where they will have to carry them out. This has produced very good results for us.

"In studying the defense perimeter, we greatly emphasize the most advantageous lines from which we can organize our defense, the rear area boundary line, the sectors and directions that are accessible to the enemy for his operations, the regions and local targets which must be held if the defenses are to remain steady, the regions where the command and observation posts are located, the best spots for placing our artillery, etc.

"This is why I can tell you with certainty that if, tomorrow, we were to be ordered to occupy the defensive positions assigned to us, our small units will know what to do out in the field with precision and skill. This is a guarantee for the attainment of success."

Of course, the operating method of Capts Jacinto Gonzalez Marquez and Hector A. Perez Preval is not an exception. Today, each of our commanders and officers makes a serious effort to improve the tactical mastery and to attain maximum efficiency in directing combat operations.

Theoretical knowledge combined with daily and systematic practice is the best way always to maintain optimum training for the accomplishment of any mission, no matter how complex it may be. This must be a permanent concern of every commander.

## REPORTAGE ON NAVAL REARGUARD EXERCISE ACTIVITIES

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 17, 28 Apr 83 pp 34-37

[Article by Jorge Luis Blanco: "Ranger Mission"]

[Text] On a winter morning we watched several hours of combat training by a group of Revolutionary Navy personnel; this was not, as many people might imagine, on board one of the surface units that safeguard the sovereignty of Cuban waters; on land, wearing camouflage uniforms, those men were training to accomplish the most complex missions in the enemy's rear areas in case the enemy should dare attack Cuba.

Corv Lt Danilo Paneca Zaldivar is an officer who has gained solid experience now that he must pass his knowledge on to his subordinates. The men of the small unit under his command esteem him not only because of his knowledge but they also admire the perseverance, determination, and valor of the man who will lead them in combat.

"There are times when we believe that we are having it very tough when he demands that we perform difficult task or that we face danger," said Able Seaman Manuel Menendez, "but then we understand that he does so to enable us to survive and to win in combat actions."

During the training they are now involved in, conditions are as realistic as possible. The fightingmen gather around their leader who explains the mission to them:

"The 'enemy' has landed and occupies a beachhead in the direction of... We have been assigned the job of penetrating his rear area with the mission of..."

Quickly the men tackle the task of checking the equipment they are going to use: Rifles, diving gear, communications equipment.

"Everything is in order," reports Able Seaman Ismael Clavero.

"The landing raft, which we are going to use, is already inflated," says Able Seaman Alexis Jose Luis Delgado.

The coast is very close. The waves break against the reefs with the violent force characteristic of that season of the year. For a moment we thought that



the landing raft would break apart long before touching the surface of the water; but these men are so skilled that they win out over nature in the end.

Once in the raft, two pairs of oars immediately propel the raft in the previously established direction. Nobody talks. Nobody makes the slightest noise that could betray the men's presence. Concealed and silent movement is a basic requirement for them. This is what they were taught and this is what they are now doing. Violating that principle would mean threatening the mission.

The landing site is already close. Corv Lt Danilo Paneca alerts the men to redouble their security measures while selecting the specific spot where they will go ashore.

"Seaman Ignacio Abat, you will be in charge of scouting," the officer orders.

The young fightingman jumps off the raft. His boots are the first to feel the cold contact with the salt water; then his legs are in the water up to the knee; but he moves forward rapidly in spite of the sharp rocks which he can feel on the muddy bottom.

On reaching the shore, he moves to a small sandy area and crawls forward until he reaches some low shrubs which happen to be growing next to the dragon's teeth.

"There is nobody around," he says to himself.

But he has to make sure that the rest of his buddies can debark with at least a minimum degree of security. Just 4 meters away, some bushy bayberry trees rise before him. Seaman Ignacio Abat does not need to think twice and, after a short dash, he climbs on the branches of one of them. High up, he raises his binoculars to his eyes and carefully observes the surrounding area nonchalantly. He observes no suspicious movements in the surrounding area.

He gets down from the tree and moves toward the place where his buddies are waiting.

"Lieutenant," he informs his superior, "Reconnaissance mission carried out as ordered."

The time has come to march off in search of "enemy" targets. Accomplishing the assigned mission is the watchword of those men. And they do not fail.

This was only an exercise in which these men demonstrated the habits and skills acquired during lengthy hours of combat training.

But, on returning to their permanent station, we realized that their life involves not only the constant perfection of their training level. They are concerned with and talk about other things likewise: What they do to comply with the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Party Central Committee; the fiancée or wife; the mother who urges them to accomplish their active military service in an exemplary fashion; the pennants which they had won in the

development of socialist competition and how that activity contributes to strengthening combat readiness; the visit they recently paid to a museum; what they are thinking of doing when they go out on pass. Finally, all of those questions which are in the minds of young men who are fully committed to our society as the defenders of our gains.

As we leave the unit, Corv Lt Danilo Paneca bids us goodbye and takes the opportunity to make a comment:

"I am proud of the sailors under my command because they are eager to accomplish their duties and they spare no effort to improve their combat and political training more and more with every passing day."

While he speaks those words, we watch the men march smilingly toward one of the training areas to continue their training which never stops.

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## BRIEFS

ILLEGAL BANANA EXPORTS--Bananas of marketable export quality to the United Kingdom are reportedly being shipped other than through the Association. Reports state that the Bananas are being exported mainly from ports from the North and North-Eastern parts of the country. Banana growers are being informed by the Association that such practice is in violation of the Banana Ordinance, which states in Part "All Bananas grown in Dominica and intended for export shall be delivered to the Association". Those involved are therefore asked to desist from this practice. Meanwhile, Banana Growers are now getting a better price for their fruit. Over the past few weeks the price to the grower has moved from 11 cents to 15 cents per pound and the Association anticipates a continued improvement in the price. [Text]  
[Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Apr 83 p 10]

CSO: 3298/605

## FOREIGN MINISTER WHITEMAN COMMENTS ON DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Apr 83 p 5

[Text]

FOREIGN Minister Unison Whiteman has said that the PRG is satisfied with the overall results of its diplomatic offensive to alert the world to the invasion threat against Grenada from United States-backed forces.

"We found great sympathy and concern among the US masses, including liberals and congressmen," said Min. Whiteman, who visited the US and Canada to speak at the United Nations and to Grenadian nationals, the press and others about the threat.

Min. Whiteman told a press conference last week that "it has become more awkward and politically difficult for the US to attack Grenada at this time" as a result of the offensive."

The PRG's offensive was prompted by statements from US President Ronald Reagan that Grenada represents a threat to US national security interests and reports that counter-revolutionary Grenadians abroad were seeking US

support for a mercenary invasion of the island.

During his visit, Min. Whiteman spoke at a well-attended press conference at the UN headquarters in New York, addressed a special Organisation of American States (OAS) meeting in Washington and met Grenadian nationals US Congressmen, and progressive organisations and individuals.

Min. Whiteman said Reagan has lost credibility, now that it is known that there is no substance in his argument that Grenada is building a military base or threatens the US.

The Reagan administration has suddenly got off the offensive by dropping its allegations about a Soviet base and is denying its intentions to back an invasion of Grenada, he added.

Min. Whiteman attributed this to the pressure brought onto the administration by Grenada's diplomatic offensive, noting that it had

initially remained silent about the charges.

Some sections of the US media, he said, gave a fairly balanced and open-handed view of the situation here.

He said an interview with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop on American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Television won great sympathy among US viewers. He estimates that some 130 million people in the US have been "reached" with a favourable impression of the situation here, and some 200,000,000 globally.

"More and more people are beginning to see the links between Reagan's domestic policies and his hostile and threatening policy towards Grenada," said Min. Whiteman.

The diplomatic campaign over the threats has brought out "the greatest level of patriotism among Grenadians in North America" with even offering to come down to join the People's Militia.

They raised funds for rallies, collected funds for the international airport and donated material assistance such as typewriters.

Solidarity also came from numerous progressive organisations in the US, many of which co-sponsored rallies and openly condemned Reagan's hostile policies.

Min. Whiteman disclosed that a large number of organisations have invited PM Bishop to the US to speak to the people, in-

cluding influential individuals and organisations, about the Revolution. The invitation has been accepted and arrangements are now being made for the trip.

Many governments also came out in support of Grenada, he said.

He singled out the Soviet Union, whose president Yuri Andropov criticised the Reagan administration for fabricating distortions about a small country building an

airport although he did not name Grenada.

Antigua Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird also publicly refuted Reagan's allegations that the airport would be used for military purposes.

However, Min. Whiteman warned that Reagan's backing down, must not be taken seriously, since imperialism will continue to harbour aggressive designs against the island.

CSO: 3298/606



## PORT EXPANSION WORK CONTINUES WITH HELP FROM CANADA

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 May 83 p 2

[Article by Patsy Lewis]

[Text]

THE expansion of the St. George's port is taking shape, with workmen busily erecting structures and digging at various points. This week, equipment came from Canada to bring the work into full gear.

Right now, the drain behind Key Universal and in front the Public Workers' Union (PWU) Centre in Tanteen, is being relocated to run behind the centre.

The drain has already been dug and huge pre-cast culverts from Cuba, being used on the airport project, are being laid down.

Project engineer Oscar Philip has explained that with the drain's relocation, the Tanteen playing field will be expanded, since the drain now cuts through it. The old drain will be filled in.

Docked in the waters behind the PWU Centre is a barge from Seaworks, a Trinidad firm contracted to do the marine works. It arrived last Saturday, and will dredge the harbour for the new schooner berth

which will go up near the centre, as well as rehabilitate the existing pier. Its work will last about six months.

Right off the PWU centre, and closer to the pier, the structures for a baggage shed and workshop are going up. This is already way ahead and is expected to be completed in July. The old Number Three Baggage Shed nearby will be moved closer to the centre.

Both aspects of the work began on March 14.

Thursday morning at the docks, equipment for the port expansion was handed over by the Canadian High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean, Alan Roger, to Minister of Construction and Public Utilities, Hudson Austin.

The equipment includes two 10,000-pound forklifts, 10 dock-trailers, two low tractors, eight container trailers, 750 wooden pallets, 12 pallet bridles, 12 tarpaulins, 25 hand trucks, 10 spare parts for the equipment and

11 spare parts for other equipment to be prepared.

It was obtained through a grant by the Canadian government.

A 6,000-pound forklift is expected shortly.

The Canadian government has an input of £1 million in the project. Its assistance, under a memorandum of understand signed with the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) last year, is both technical and material.

The technical assistance will take the form of training in all aspects of port management and operations, and maintenance of port equipment.

An equipment supervisor has been appointed by the Port Authority and, with mechanics, will be trained both here and in Canada on proper preventive maintenance.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has appointed Novaport, a firm of consultants, to train port personnel.

## FLIGHTS FROM CUBA, VENEZUELA TO UTILIZE NEW AIRPORT

## Tourism Minister's Announcement

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 May 83 p 6

[Text]

THE Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation has entered into an agreement with the Venezuelan government for an airline to travel to Grenada, once the international airport comes on stream.

Tourism Minister Lyden Ramdhanny, addressing taximen on Thursday, said the Ministry will on June 16 hold discussions with a "big airline" servicing North America, London and Europe. The airline's name is being kept secret, he said, but by August or September, the PRG would have had all its airline links tied up.

The Ministry is hoping to reconstruct the house overlooking the Grand Etang Lake and provide toilet facilities for tourists, Min. Ramdhanny said. The Ministry also wants to encourage the private sector to open a restaurant at the house.

Min. Ramdhanny said the Ministry is discussing with the Ministry of Health the building of toilets on the

route that tourists take from the airport and to local sites, by the last quarter of the year.

Last week, he said, a team from the Organisation of American States (OAS) presented a project proposal to develop historical sites, such as great houses, rehabilitation of the Carenage and Leapers' Hill in Sauteurs. The Ministry will be talking with funding agencies to help, he said.

The taximen, who are attending a seminar geared towards explaining their role in tourism, and informing them of the history and flora and fauna of the country, asked Min. Ramdhanny to look into the duty on spare parts for vehicles, which they feel is too high.

They also asked that road signs for reduced speed be placed near tourist sites, since speeding vehicles make it dangerous for tourists to take photographs. Signs should also be put near areas where tourists are re-

stricted from taking photographs.

The taximen called on the Ministry to educate citizens on their response to tourists and their role in the industry's development.

Tourism Development Council chairman, Dr. John Watts, told the taxidrivers that he would recommend to the PRG that only taxidrivers who attend the seminars should be allowed to operate taxis.

He read comments from cruise ship passengers who complained of abuses by some drivers.

He advised them to take pride in their work because it was an important service and not inferior. He also advised them to dress properly and cleanly and increase their knowledge of Grenada.

The month-long seminar, organised by the Ministry, will take place in St. George's on Mondays and St. Andrew's on Thursdays. It was officially opened Thursday at Otway House.

## Service from Cuba

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 May 83 p 6

[Text]

AERO-Caribbean, a tour-operating airline company recently established in Havana, Cuba, is expected to start flying from Cuba to Grenada as soon as the international airport is completed.

This came out of a conference of airline agents which the Ministry of

Tourism hosted, in conjunction with the Grenada Hotel Association and Aero Caribbean, from April 17-19.

The agents came from leading tour operating companies in Canada and Spain.

Aero Caribbean, is a charter airline, handling both passengers and cargo, and has re-

cently started flying from Cuba to the Dominican Republic. It also intends to fly to any other Caribbean islands requesting its services.

The airline also transports cargo to and from Colombia, Curacao, Canada, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

CSO: 3298/606

## REPORT ON MAY DAY FESTIVITIES, STRACHAN REMARKS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 May 83 pp 8-9

[Article by Keith Jeremiah]

[Text]

CARRYING banners and placards supporting disarmament and world peace, thousands of Grenadian workers last Sunday marched through St. George's to mark May Day, the international workers' day.

The workers, joined by Cuban and other international workers, and members of the Productive Farmers' Union (PFU) marched from the Carenage to Queen's Park for a mass rally, addressed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Minister of National Mobilisation and Labour, Selwyn Strachan, among others.

In keeping with this year's May Day theme, "Development of the Working Class in Conditions of Peace and Disarmament", some of the placards and banners read: "No to the Arms Race", "We Want Peace, Not War", and "No to the War Policies of the Reagan Administration".

"By your own action, you have symbolised that we are striving for peace," said Bank and General Workers' Union (BGWU) president Vincent Noel to the workers after they arrived in the park.

Addressing the rally, Min. Strachan disclosed that the PRG and New Jewel Movement (NJM) have decided to hold a Caribbean Day For Peace tomorrow. It will also express solidarity with oppressed workers in the Caribbean, he said.

The NJM, Min. Strachan said, has also decided to declare a week of solidarity with the revolutionary processes in the region, particularly in El Salvador, Suriname and Nicaragua.

With the context of the arms race and struggle for world peace, he pointed to the worsening socio-economic conditions facing people in the so-called Third World countries by referring to statistics contained in Cuban President Fidel Castro's

address to the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit Conference in India last month.

Among the statistics Min. Strachan quoted from the address were of the 1000 million people living in extreme poverty, the 500 million unemployed or underemployed, the 500 million who remain hungry each day and the 200 million children unable to attend school.

He described as phenomenal the discovery by a University of the West Indies survey team, that the majority of youths in Grenada want to stay here to help develop the country, rather than travelling to the United States or West Europe.

He said that is only because of the Revolution, since before most youths had a "visa mentality", an obsessive desire to travel to the US or Europe to seek better living.

The UWI team did the survey among English-speaking

Caribbean islands to determine the percentage of youths who wanted to remain home or travel abroad.

In their solidarity messages, the eight trade unions affiliated to the Grenada Trades Union Council (TUC) expressed support for an end to the arms race and urged that the resource spent on armaments be used for mankind's welfare.

"We want peace because we want better housing, better health care," said Agricultural and General Workers Union (AGWU) president, Fitzroy Bain.

PFU president Simon Charles urged the US to withdraw its military forces in the Caribbean and respect its peoples' sovereignty.

A solidarity message also came from Antonio Gonzales, of the Cuban Confederation of Trade Unions.

TUC president, Jeanette Dubois, called on the US administration to cease its threats against the Grenadian people and revolution.

"Although our workers hate and despise war," she said, "we will not be afraid to defend ourselves."

Supporting the call for world peace, she declared: "we have to identify with all countries and peoples struggling against war."

Sis. Dubois noted that the Grenadian working class has over the past four years made tremendous strides not only in wage increases,

but also in health, education and housing.

The eight unions affiliated to the TUC are BGWU, AGWU, Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union, (SWWU), Commercial and Industrial Workers' Union (CIWU), Public Workers' Union, Technical and Allied Workers' Union (TAWU), Grenada Taximen's Association and Grenada Union of Teachers.

AGWU won the first place in the usual competition for the union with the largest turnout, largest percentage turnout and uniformity. GUT placed second, while the BGWU took third place.

CSO: 3298/606



## BRIEFS

PAPER'S ABSENCE--FREE WEST INDIAN is back on the streets today, after an absence of three weeks, caused by technical difficulties. Your national newspaper will be coming out weekly, every Saturday until further notice. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Apr 83 p 1]

PACT WITH RADIO SOFIA--Radio Free Grenada (RFG) and Radio Sofia of Bulgaria have signed an agreement to exchange programmes, which will help develop the socio-economic process of both countries and a greater understanding of each other's culture. Signing on behalf of their stations were RFG's acting manager Peter David and Radio Sofia's programme director Roumen Popov, at Butler House last week. The agreement signifies a new stage of development of the media of the two countries, David said, because Bulgarians and Grenadians will be able to hear and learn about each other's culture. Since the Revolution, he said, RFG has signed agreements with three countries and opened discussions with the German Democratic Republic (GDR) on exchanging programmes. This, he said, has opened the way for understanding what true development is. David said that the agreement was signed at a time when the media is under direct pressure, because of the mounting imperialist threat and it is the media's job to spread the truth. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Apr 83 p 8]

ANTI-SABOTAGE MEASURES--Plans are being worked out to have People's Militia members guard key public institutions and projects of the Revolution every night to prevent sabotage. This was disclosed by Lt. Col. Ewart Layne on Thursday, as he spoke to an emulation ceremony at the St David's RC School for militia members who participated in last weekend's Jeremiah Richardson Defence of the Homeland manoeuvre. Layne pointed out that counter-revolutionary forces may want to sabotage the island's economy if they find it difficult to stage a mercenary invasion. He added that such sabotage is designed to create confusion that could lay the basis for the imperialists to land troops on the beaches. The plans are now being discussed by the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces (PRAF) Layne said, and final decisions are expected to be announced within the coming weeks. The ceremony was attended by PRG member Fitzroy Bain parish co-ordinator Chappel Thomas and other senior PRAF officers. It included cultural performances from Windsor Forest unit, which won the award for the most outstanding unit from St. David's in the manoeuvre. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Apr 83 p 12]

ACTING POLICE OFFICIAL--Second Lieutenant Adonis Francis has been appointed Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Grenada Police Service, following the death of Deputy Commissioner Anthony Lucky Bernard, three weeks ago. Bernard, aged 51, died in a hospital in Houston, Texas, USA, where he was undergoing medical treatment. [Excerpt] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Apr 83 p 10]

'DAY OF PEACE'--Tomorrow has been declared by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) and the New Jewel Movement (NJM) as "a Caribbean Day of Peace". Grenadians will mark the occasion with an indoor rally at the St. Andrew's Junior Secondary School in Grenville, starting at 7:30 p.m. The decision to set aside a day in recognition of the struggle for the Caribbean to be recognised as a zone of peace, and in solidarity with those being oppressed by brutal regimes in the region, was announced by Minister of National Mobilisation and Labour Selwyn Strachan, to thousands of Grenadian workers at the May Day rally in Queen's Park. Tomorrow's rally is expected to include addresses from members of the PRG and NJM and solidarity messages from mass organisations and groups such as the Grenada Peace Council. Grenadians have been emphasising world peace and an end to the arms race over the past weeks, as United States imperialism seeks to crush the revolutionary processes in Central America and the Caribbean. In a speech to a joint session of the US Congress last week, US President Ronald Reagan declared that "the national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America." Min. Strachan also announced a week of solidarity with the revolutionary processes in the region, in particular those in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Suriname and Cuba, now under attack by the US administration. He said the months of May, June and July will be devoted to expressing solidarity with workers in these countries. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 May 83 p 1]

NUTMEG TO USSR--Some 500 tons of nutmeg are expected to leave here tomorrow for the Union of Soviet and Socialist Republics (USSR) aboard the ship "M/V" Boris Zhemchuzhin". [as published] This is the largest of two shipments so far to be shipped directly to the Soviet Union, and the first for this year. Last May, for the first time, Grenada sold some 300 tons of nutmeg directly to USSR. The shipments have considerably reduced the large quantity of nutmeg that had to be stockpiled over the past year, due to the current world economic crisis which has forced traditional customers, such as Holland, to buy less of the spice. Some 5,000 bags were shipped to Holland last month. Under an agreement signed during Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's official visit to the USSR last July, the Soviets agreed to purchase large quantities of nutmeg and cocoa from Grenada, at stable prices for a five-year period. The first shipment of cocoa, some 8,000 bags, left for the USSR in March. The ship arrived here on Thursday and, according to its captain, Ignor N. Traktutov, it will take one month to reach the Soviet city of Leningrad with its cargo. He said that there has been good co-operation between its crew and the Grenada Ports Authority in loading the cargo. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 May 83 p 3]

NEW DAM--A new dam is being constructed in Calbony, St. Andrew's, to increase the water supply to people in Grenville and its environs. The dam, which

is being constructed at an estimated cost of \$56,000, will distribute about 194,000 gallons of water daily. It was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and is being funded by the Central Water Commission (CWC) which is contributing \$10,000, the Grenada Banana Society, with \$16,000, and Oxfam-Canada, with \$33,000. Work on the dam began April 11, and is expected to be completed within the next four weeks. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 May 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/607

## MILITARY ZONE NO 8 ESTABLISHED IN CHIQUIMULA

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 2 May 83 pp 1, 8

/Text/ The people's confidence in the Guatemalan Army and the unity of the Guatemalan people for the preservation of peace were emphasized by the National Defense chief of staff, Brig Gen Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, during a solemn ceremony establishing Military Zone No 8 in the city of Chiquimula.

General Lopez Fuentes also said in his speech that the creation of Military Zone No 8 represents the effort we are all making to elevate the ideals of freedom which in our thinking are based on an authentic nationalist vocation. He said also that Chiquimula has always distinguished itself with patriotic rallies which history records with pride as an example for our generation.

The ceremony began with the singing of our National Anthem and continued with the reading of the Army General Order announcing the creation of Military Zone No 8.

Following his speech, General Lopez Fuentes turned over the National Pavilion to the commander of the newly-established military zone, infantry Col (DEM) Luis Alberto Paredes Najera, who gave a moving speech recounting the historic event now taking place.

Colonel Paredes Najera said that Chiquimula represents in Guatemala the testimony of a people which has given itself entirely to serving the army because the heroic spirit of its people and the open friendship they profess are famous in the east. He said he felt honored to be the first commander of Military Zone No 8 and that he was sure that all the people of Chiquimula will respond to strengthen the ties they have always had with the army. He mentioned as an example some distinguished soldiers from Chiquimula who have written glorious pages in Guatemala's military history, saying in conclusion that the challenge has been given and that we have a commitment in Chiquimula to advance the department, and consequently the country, even further.

Then the Army Hymn was played while General Lopez Fuentes reviewed the military units, which put on a splendid parade headed by two companies of cadet cavalymen from the Polytechnic School and the Adolfo V. Hall Institute of Oriente, followed by the Military Reserves and contingents of soldiers preceded by armored vehicles and artillery pieces.

A large crowd gathered at one side of Chiquimula's central park, opposite the Oriente National Institute for Girls, where the ceremony was taking place.

## PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SPEECH PRODUCES ADVERSE REACTIONS

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 2 May 83 p 3

/Text/ As was to be expected, President Reagan's frank and direct speech before the two houses of Congress produced adverse reactions in those sectors which seek to alleviate the dramatic conflagration in the region in question. First it was the Democrats in the U.S. Congress itself who, through their spokesman, Senator Christopher Dodd, opposed the policy set forth by the chief executive on the grounds that it is not by increasing military aid that the situation created by Cuban-sponsored subversive activity will be settled, but by improving the living conditions of the traditionally exploited large majorities. Similar reactions were heard in other countries. In the Federal Republic of Germany the Social Democratic Party flatly rejected the statement, insisting--just as the Nicaraguan foreign minister did at the recent meeting in Panama--that the Central American conflict has no connection with the East-West confrontation, "since it is the result of many years of economic and social injustice within a framework of continued political oppression."

Wischnewski, the socialist spokesman, and Dodd are both partly correct, because one cannot deny that the history of our America and that of other parts of the world are tinged with these realities which provide arguments in favor of armed struggle. However, it is also true that the ideological confrontation dividing the world is clearly represented in all the countries of the world. Here in Central America that confrontation has taken a pathetic form, and although the Soviet Union has made no political statement, and Cuba is maintaining a suspicious silence, it has not escaped anybody's notice that the flow of weapons, personnel and technical advisers from the island to Nicaragua and to the guerrilla factions in El Salvador and Guatemala is continuing and increasing. In that respect the President of the United States is right, and therefore not to act would be a major error.

Although we may not wish to be, we are right in the middle of the conflict.

8735

CSO: 3248/765



## BRIEFS

QUETZAL WILL NOT DEVALUATE--There will be neither devaluation nor flotation of the quetzal, Dr Leonardo Figueroa Villate, public finance minister, asserted. The government of the republic, he added, is implementing fiscal and economic measures which will permit us to maintain control of our currency, its stability and its parity with the dollar. He indicated that if this were not done, the country would suffer a series of unforeseeable economic, social and political consequences. He reiterated that the quetzal will maintain its value with relation to the dollar, and that this will eventually favor a reactivation and recovery of the economy and social peace in Guatemala. /Text/ /Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 2 May 83 p 1/ 8735

CSO: 3248/765

## OFFICIALS GET SALARY PERKS WHILE WAGES FROZEN FOR OTHERS

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 May 83 p 1

[Text] While the wage freeze continues, more perks to the big boys are being shared out by the regime. A recent issue of the OFFICIAL GAZETTE indicates that large sums of money are to be given to certain officials in the municipal and regional administrations. These "Orders" are arbitrary and do not come before Parliament for debate. They are as follows:

For the Mayor of New Amsterdam, a salary of \$750 per month; plus a duty allowance of \$150 per month.

For the deputy Mayor of New Amsterdam, a salary of \$550 per month; plus a duty allowance of \$150 per month.

For the chairman of the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (Hulbert McGowan) a house allowance of \$350 per month. He already collects a monthly salary of \$1,550; a duty allowance of \$200 per month; and an entertainment allowance of \$250 per month. According to the latest addition, he will now collect a total of \$2,350 per month.

Under the order, the principal order which was made on December 12, 1981 has been amended. Whereas it had come into force on August 1, 1981, the new amending order makes it retroactive to February 1, 1981. This means 6 months backpay for Hulbert McGowan, who is the substantive holder of the office.

In the cases of the Mayor and deputy Mayor of New Amsterdam their payments are back-dated from January 1, 1983.

In the original order the vice-chairman of the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs was granted a salary of \$1,250 per month; a duty allowance of \$200; and an entertainment allowance of \$200 per month.

While these hefty hikes are being shared out, the regime has shown no inclination to end its wage freeze policy. For 1982 as in 1979 there was a total wage freeze. Inflation in 1982 galloped at over 40 per cent per annum, according to some economic analysts. In 1983 the inflation factor is worse and the wage freeze continues in force. The standard of living therefore of the low income bracket is declining steadily.

CSO: 3298/609

## SPRING SUGAR CROP RUNNING 16 PERCENT BEHIND TARGET

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 May 83 p 4

[Text] The sugar industry continues its uphill task to reach the target set for the first crop 1983. According to Guysuco this target is 100,870 tons. Up to April 30, 1983 (last week) the industry had reached 85,615 tons or 84.9 per cent of the target. This has been achieved in 15 weeks of grinding operations.

In a press release Guysuco said:

"The corporation in a bold effort to significantly reduce production short-falls, has kept a number of its factories in operation despite earlier schedules for the completion of grinding operations on estates."

The corporation again complained about bad weather conditions, when it said:

"This week flood conditions at Skeldon forced that estate to end its crop when it had produced only 10 tons of its 725 ton target. Adverse weather conditions also affected Blairmont which achieved only 125 tons of its 390 ton target for this week".

Guysuco therefore intends to keep LBI and Uitvlugt estates in grinding operation and would only order their crops closed "if the rains continue thereby making it uneconomical to keep those two estates on stream."

The other 8 factories have commenced their out-of-crop maintenance which the corporation says must be thoroughly performed since a long second crop is expected. The first crop has been affected considerably by factory mechanical down time. While there were a few work stoppages due to disputes in the fields, there has been no major strike in the sugar belt. Unaddressed grievances however are simmering beneath the surface.

The workers want speedy action on a number of issues...mainly foodstuffs. They have pointed out that they cannot be expected to maximise production if they are hungry.

CSO: 3298/609

## ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL NEGLECT CRIPPLE ESSEQUIBO COAST

Georgetown MIRROR in English 1 May 83 p 2

[Text] Reports from Essequibo Coast say that the cassava mill at Charity is not working and has been out of operation from some months. Since the restrictions placed by the regime on wheat flour imports, farmers in the area showed a preference for cassava flour rather than rice flour. There has however been no real organised cultivation of cassava for industrial purposes.

The state farm at McNabb is badly kept and is a liability. The newly earmarked 700 acres for cassava production in the Cozier Canal area will fall if the rains come with no improvement in the drainage system. The entire project is silted up and the Canal is blocked. Region 2 (Pomeroon-Supenaam) is only producing 10 per cent of its cassava potential."

Elsewhere in the county, several wood grants and loggers are going out of business. The main reason cited is that foodstuffs for interior workers are not readily and cheaply available. This situation also affects miners, geologists and surveyors. Work in the hinterland is no longer an attraction.

It has also been reported that farmers on the coast are first expected to obtain an authorisation from the Regional office before they can buy a cutlass from Guyana Stores at Lima.

The bottleneck at the state owned silos where the intake of paddy is concerned, has not improved. This is compounded by unfavourable grades, a shortage of empty bags, and long delays before trailers are unloaded. Hundreds of bags of paddy which have been reaped in good quality, were thus made to deteriorate by 50 per cent because of the current unsatisfactory intake system at the silos.

All of Guyana's projects on the coast are at a standstill since the beginning of the year. The well which was sunk at Bounty Hall in early 1982, has not been completed. At Riverstown work on another well which was being drilled since 1982, has come to a halt. The laying of pipes by self-help at Hampton Court has reached a standstill, and over 60 families have had their water supplies cut off.

CSO: 3298/609

## PUBLIC SERVICE UNION WARNS GOVERNMENT ON IMF, ASKS WAGE HIKES

## Salary Demands

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 May 83 p 1

[Text] The Public Service Union is seeking to have public sector wage and salary anomalies adjusted without further delay by government. The PSU in this respect said that it is in close cooperation with the Trades Union Congress, and a letter has been despatched to President Burnham about the whole issue.

The PSU wants to have finalised "the interim wages agreement of 1981 especially in the light of spiralling costs since that interim agreement was reached."

In relation to salaried workers represented by the PSU, the union is accusing the regime of taking unilateral action to "adjust some salaries" while ignoring others. The union in its letter says:

"Proposals are now being prepared by the union to adjust the salaries of other categories of public servants to ensure that relativities are maintained, both in respect of the public service and the army, police, and other categories of employees whose salaries have been adjusted."

Government gave salary boosts last year to the security forces but none to any other category of employees whether in the productive field or not. This discrimination is irking other public sector employees.

MIRROR also understands that many unions in the TUC are aghast over the IMF proposals to the government, and plan to oppose them. It is not known if they will take to the streets to protest. The regime is playing a "hold-me loose-me game" with the imperialist IMF. [as published] While on the one hand it "condemns" the IMF package, on the other it has said that it is "still negotiating" with the IMF.



## Opposition to IMF Conditions

Georgetown MIRROR in English 1 May 83 p 4

[Text] The Guyana Public Service Union (PSU) has written to President Burnham warning him against accepting the latest terms for stand-by credit proffered by the International Monetary Fund. The letter bearing the signature of George Daniels, the union's President, denounced the package proposals and asserted that no consultations have taken place between government and the TUC as yet. Mr. Daniels charged that the IMF is seeking to wreck the economy.

The letter which has been circulated to the mass media says in its opening paragraph: "The executive council of my union met and considered information which reached the union to the effect that the IMF had prescribed a package of proposals to the Guyana government. The package my union understands includes:

- 1) The removal of the subsidy on sugar.
- 2) An increase in electricity charges by 56 per cent.
- 3) An increase in the price of fuel.
- 4) An increase in the price of water.
- 5) An increase in the price of rice.
- 6) The pegging of wages at the present levels.
- 7) The devaluation of the Guyana Dollar by between 66-100 per cent which is anticipated to yield a cost of living increase of 40 per cent at the minimum.

In addition to the above, my union understands that the IMF is insisting that:

- a) The bauxite industry should be handed over to Alcan with a management contract.
- b) The sugar industry should be handed over to private investors.
- c) The sale of rice should be done by private investors."

MIRROR understands that a militant section of the PSU wants the IMF booted out of Guyana. This section is convinced that Guyana can be developed without IMF aid, and urges government to find an alternative developmental aid strategy less harmful to the workers and less hazardous to the economy. Mr. Daniels reflecting the official view of the PSU said in his letter to Mr. Burnham:

"The package is unacceptable to the union, since if these proposals are accepted, greater hardships would be faced by the Guyanese people. In

addition my union feels that these proposals seem not to be intended to develop but to destroy the national economy. This my union cannot countenance.

My union has been advised that neither the government nor the IMF held discussions with the TUC prior to or during the course of the negotiations. This failure to consult with the TUC is a serious omission which should be corrected immediately."

Since the existence of this angry sentiment in the PSU became known to the regime, both President Burnham and Vice-President Desmond Hoyte made pronouncements indicating that government has no intention of accepting the IMF package. Minister Hoyte said that "we will not change course" while Mr. Burnham said that "the government cannot accept the terms proposed by the IMF".

This IMF package if accepted will completely dismantle the public sector, and hand it over to foreign capitalist sharks already streaming into the country for that purpose.

CS0: 3298/609

## PROFESSOR ADMITS TO BEING GUERRILLA LEADER

PA302248 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpts] The professor missing from the National University's school of economics has turned out to be an important leader of the Lorenzo Zelaya guerrilla command. Professor Efraim Duarte, whose disappearance has gained widespread publicity during the past 2 months in Honduras, reappeared last weekend in Guatemala and admitted at a news conference to being the top guerrilla leader in Honduras.

At the news conference offered at the Eldorado Hotel in Guatemala, Durate revealed that before his capture by the authorities he had decided to quit his subversive activities because he felt he was being excessively pressured into actions to destabilize the constitutional government of Honduras.

We were being pressured with strategic plans from Nicaragua and Cuba to overthrow the Central American governments and set up Marxist-Leninist regimes throughout the isthmus, for which we had contacts with Cuban and Nicaraguan liaison agents, Duarte explained. Nicaragua was demanding that our forces use violence to destabilize the Honduran Government, Efraim Duarte declared after his reappearance in Guatemala last weekend.

CSO: 3248/829

## DEBATE CONTINUES OVER GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED '83-'84 BUDGET

## Vaz Defense

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 May 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] The Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglas Vaz, yesterday defended the Government's Structural Adjustment Programme, pointing out that there was no other viable development option except by export-led growth. He mentioned growth of 4.2 percent in Manufacturing and 5.8 in the commercial sector last year, and noted that employment in both sectors had contributed 19,500 jobs, over the last two-year period.

Mr Vaz, making his contribution to the 1983/84 Budget Debate in the House of Representatives, said that the Government approached economic development from a scientific viewpoint and that the country could not grow if it depended on imports substitution.

The Minister said that in 1973-1980 the economies of developing countries grew by 4.6 percent, but in 1981 Third World economies grew at a rate of only 2.2 percent, a sharp decline from the halcyon days of the 1970s.

He said that the GDP grew by 3 percent in 1981 and in 1982 it was 0.2 percent, due to the drop of 30 percent in bauxite production. The growth in the manufacturing and commercial sectors, tied in with the 3 percent growth in GDP, came against the background of the worst economic depression in the world.

Mr. Vaz challenged the Leader of the Opposition to come to the House and produce an alternative to the Structural Adjustment Programme.

Looking at two years of the effects of structural adjustment on the Jamaican economy, the Minister said that Manufacture and Commerce continued to play an important role in the structural transformation of the Jamaica economy, as they contributed to employment, the growth of real incomes, the development of human resources and the efficient utilization of domestic resources, increase in foreign exchange earnings by increased exports, and growth of GDP.

He said that the labour force in Manufacture in November 1980 was 103,800; by October 1982 it moved to 109,300, a growth of 5,500. In Commerce in

November 1980 it was 111,200, growing to 124,400 in October 1982, a growth of 13,200 people. The combination of Manufacture and Commerce produced an increase in the labour force of 18,700.

The Minister said that to effect this growth a system of foreign allocation, with priority to export earnings entities, was introduced in 1982, followed in January 1983 by a rationalization and formalization of the parallel market and the introduction of the quota system.

Along with this, there was the commencement of a number of studies to assess and assess and established new trade policies, marketing strategies, management capabilities and the removal of quantitative restrictions and replacement by tariffs; simplifying the procedures for obtaining import permits, review and re-designing the incentive scheme to facilitate and encourage manufacturers to export more of their output and intensification of investment promotion to attract foreign investment to supplement local investment. [as published]

"The performance of the manufacturing sector in 1982 is therefore measured against the policies of the government, which to a large extent were dictated by the adverse effects of the present economic recession, which although causing shock waves in the mining, quarrying and agro-cultural sectors of the economy, nevertheless permitted in the manufacturing sector. After accumulating negative growth in manufacturing of [number illegible] percent between 1973 and 1980, preliminary estimates for 1982 show a growth rate at constant prices of 4.2 percent and a revised estimate for 1981 show a growth rate of 1.3 percent in that year." [as published]

He said that the value of import licence granted to the sectors for 1982 was US\$620.3 million, as against US\$596.2 million in 1981, and US\$457.4 million for 1980, an increased foreign exchange allocation of 4.1 percent over 1981.

The Minister said that had there not been certain constraints facing the manufacturing sector the growth would have been higher. He said that the production sector was hampered by power cuts, lock off of water, "but they knew what we had inherited."

Dealing with other areas of his Ministry, the Minister said when he started to examine the Trade Administrator's Department he found 8,900 importers on the list. This he said dropped dramatically to 3,600, the rest having decided that they did not wish to continue as importers.

He said that in an effort to contain the bureaucracy a standing committee on imports was established, and he regarded it as a most important innovation to have been taken place. [as published] He said also that a trade advisory committee on restricted items had also been established.

Mr. Vaz said that the consumer budget was \$233.4 million in 1982 and this was cut to \$198.7 million this year, a reduction of 14.9 per cent, and for the first time in the country's history there was close association between the Minister of Industry and Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture.



## Manley Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 13 May 83 pp 1, 20

[Text] A prediction that the country will slide into greater economic difficulties and "deeper and deeper in debt" as the present economic model of dependency being pursued by the Government at this present time cannot work, was made yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley.

Looking at the totality of the performance of the Government, Mr. Manley said: "It is clear that the model is not working, because it contains serious contradictions and inherent weaknesses. The country is heading into very, very profound economic difficulties, far more than what is apparent on the surface at this time".

Mr. Manley linked the worsening economic situation to the failure of Government's economic policies, its consumerism approach, and a widening trade deficit.

Mr. Manley criticised the Government for "hiding" behind the term "breach" with the International Monetary Fund, rather than telling the country that the I.M.F. test had been failed. He said he saw the failure as a sign of fundamental problems. He also accused the Government of being "worried" because it knew that it was "not on top of the problems facing the country".

Responding to repeated calls from Government members as to what was his alternative, Mr. Manley said: "You are there to govern, you better govern. You nearly mash the country down flat to get there to govern. You have 2 1/2 years and now you are in confusion, and now asking me what are the alternative. [as published] By the time we are ready for elections, we will be ready with the alternative".

The Opposition Leader was making his contribution to the 1983/84 Budget Debate in the House of Representatives.

His speech, which lasted for 4 1/2 hours, was interrupted by utterances of an unruly woman in the gallery who was removed by the police, after the Speaker, the Hon. Talbert Forrest, had threatened to clear the gallery if order was not restored.

Mr. Manley said that the Opposition had begun to notice three consistent elements which characterised the strategy of the Government. These he identified as "maximization of excuses, maximization of promises, and maximization of arrogance".

On the recent CARICOM impasse, Mr. Manley said he was happy to see that the matter had been resolved. He said it could not have been a case of good government to have introduced measures which had led to that effect on CARICOM. He asked if the Government's "careless handling of the matter is an indication of their attitude to CARICOM".

"What price did we pay in lost trade?" he questioned.

Referring to the parallel currency market, Mr. Manley said it was not working and was going to result in a situation of increasing de-valuation.

On the foreign exchange budget, he noted that the Government so far in the Budget had been silent on the matter. He expressed the hope that the Prime Minister would furnish details when he came to close the debate on Wednesday.

Referring to the strategy of the Government, Mr. Manley said this deserved very careful and thoughtful analysis, because "it is only if we can try to comprehend the elements of an intended strategy that we can hope to judge the effectiveness of that strategy".

Mr. Manley said that the economic strategy of the Government had four main elements: (1) the notice of the supremacy of the consumer beyond the area of basic and essential goods, (2) divestment, (3) de-regulation, (4) absolute dependency on foreign capital.

On the question of consumer appetite, Mr. Manley said it was necessary to borrow massively to keep a political promise, and this policy had caused serious damage to Agriculture and was wreaking havoc on small businesses. The consequences was to re-institutionalise the philosophy of "each man for himself". [as published]

De-regulation was a direct consequence of the free-enterprise philosophy, he said, adding that if there was a single word that characterised the tactic of the Government that word was "dependency".

Referring to the decline in Agriculture, Mr. Manley spoke of Agro-21 and said it was consistent with the kind of development model that needed large financial input from foreign sources as the major engine of that development. He questioned why the Government was making "so much fanfare" about it while the vote in the Estimates for Agriculture had declined, and the vote for the Youth Development Training Programme (HEART) had also declined, while at the same time an allocation of \$3 million was made available for "professional management" from abroad.

"What we are now talking about is parallel management," he said.

Looking at the construction industry, Mr. Manley said: "We are pleased, as they are, about the boom that has started in that industry. Long may it continue. We welcome the employment and the activity. Sorry that it was so hard hit by violence in the past, and nothing will we do to seek to return the pattern of site violence in the construction industry".

Turning to Housing, Mr. Manley said that the balance sheet presented by the Government did not compare with what had been done by the previous Administration. He said that in the 1981 Budget the Government had announced that it would be building 12,000 units annually and that the financing was already in place.

The Prime Minister, he said, had told the House in his Budget speech that over 7,000 units had been completed, but the Economic and Social Survey published by the Government had stated that only 5,019 units were completed--1,081 "cannot be found right now," Mr. Manley declared.

Dealing with the Budget, Mr. Manley said it was true that a lot of money had been borrowed, and it was clear that there had been growth. But what was the nature of the growth? he asked.

To put the record straight, he said, on a number of occasions it was said that there was 8 years of negative growth. [as published] But during his Administration, there were two years of growth and six years of negative growth, totalling 17.7 percent.

The years when the greatest losses occurred, he said, were 1976, showing 6.3 percent loss, and 1980, showing 5.3 percent. History would observe that 11.6 percent of the losses occurred in the two election years--"years of extreme violence".

On present claims by the Government, he said that as far as the Jamaican economy was concerned the growth has been achieved because services had been increased based on a heavy dependence of borrowing. This appeared as growth, but would not assist Jamaica out of its difficulties. There was no substantial change in the Jamaican economy that was reflected in the growth.

Mr. Manley said that the country was told that gross capital formation grew by 20.8 per cent, and it was implied that this was the first time that the country was experiencing this level of growth in capital formation. He said that the figures showed that, apart from the election years, there had always tended to be growth in this area. He listed figures to substantiate this, saying that in 1975 it was 24.7 percent, and in 1978 it was 42.7 percent and there was a decline in 1980.

Dealing with debts, Mr. Manley said that in 1972 the direct extent of public debt was \$142.9 million, and by 1980 it had grown to \$895.9 million, a "tremendous" increase, and this was due to the oil crisis and for bringing in raw materials and basic goods.

He said that it was important to look at debts in the whole context of the Third World. Third World debt in 1973 was \$96.8 billion, moving to \$505.2 billion in 1982. Jamaica had not done badly, compared with the rest of the Third World.

Noting that the Government had borrowed in just two years over \$1 billion, Mr. Manley said that the claim that the Government had done so to pay back debts incurred by the PNP was "not entirely true".

On the question of employment, Mr. Manley said that employment was contracting under this Government and it was a "very worrying thing". In October 1981, employment was 761,400 and by October 1982 it was 756,000, representing an increase of 5,000, while over the last three years of the PNP Administration employment increased by 50,300.

Turning to foreign policy, Mr. Manley said that the Opposition dissociated itself from the Government's statement at the Non-Aligned Conference at New Delhi that what was taking place in Nicaragua was a confrontation between East and West.

"We reject this," Mr. Manley said, adding: "What is going on there is a struggle of a country to deal with poverty, to deal with development, and to be non-aligned. Not once have we heard the Government of this country condemning what is going on in Nicaragua".

Mr. Manley paid tribute to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon Hugh Shearer, for "a very consistent, principled and strong position" in the struggle against Apartheid. But he expressed "shock, surprise and astonishment" that Mr. Shearer did not speak out about the tour to the United States by the South African rugby team. He wanted to know if it was a case of "principle being sacrificed".

#### PNP on Centralization of Power

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 May 83 p 17

[Text] The Opposition on Tuesday criticised the Government for what was described as "the overcentralization of power and authority being exercised by the Prime Minister", seeing this "one-man arrangement" as containing the seeds "which could flower into authoritarianism and could become a threat to our democratic way of life".

The Opposition fears were expressed by the Leader of Opposition Business in the House of Representatives, Mr. Seymour Mullings, during his contribution to the 1983/84 Budget Debate.

He said that he wanted to make it clear that the issue he was raising was not motivated by personal animosity, since Jamaica had been blessed through the years by Prime Ministers who have all set high standards of hard work and dedication to duty and Mr. Seaga was no exception.

"He works very hard and does arduous hours daily. We feel, however, that Mr. Seaga is combining within himself too many functions and Ministries for the public good and already important public matters are bottlenecked because of the necessity of his personal intervention," he said.

"We refrained from commenting on this matter earlier because we thought that the allocation of responsibilities was temporary, designed to give him as Prime Minister breathing space for appropriate delegation. However, as time and events have unfolded we have noted with alarm an intensification of this trend of overcentralization.

"Let us examine the situation in detail. Mr. Seaga is Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Mining and Energy, Minister of Culture. Those are four substantive Ministries with their portfolio subject matters, their Civil Service apparatus and regulatory as well as developmental functions".

Additionally, Mr. Mullings said, important areas like the HEART programme and JNIP, report directly to the Prime Minister. The Budget revealed, too, that the "much-heralded" Agro-21 would have a direct link to the Office of the Prime Minister.

"From time to time, in response to preceived crises Ministers have been dismembered of certain functions and a growing list of areas of functions transferred to the Office of the Prime Minister. For example, aspects of the Trade Administrator's Department, enterprises under the public utilities, agencies in the sugar industry, all these agencies report directly to the Office of the Prime Minister".

Mr. Mullings charged that the duties and responsibilities of the Government were "organised and revolved around one man". Drawing attention to what he saw as some of the "disturbing implications", he said this was cutting across the principle of collective responsibility which was fundamental to the system of government by a Cabinet. He wondered if this trend implied an abandonment of the system of Cabinet Government.

Other implications, he said, were it was "in direct collision with accepted management principles of genuine delegation of responsibility by a team leader to trusted colleagues"; it was ensuring that younger and less experienced members of the Government would never have the exposure and scope for growth that could only come through "the crucible of experience" through the assignment of responsibility; the arrangement gave a monopoly to one man of flows of vital economic information and decision-making.

All the statistical agencies--NPA, Trade Board, JBI, Department of Statistics, Bank of Jamaica, Customs and Taxes--and other vital areas report to one man, and this one-man arrangement contained "the seeds which could flower into authoritarianism and could be threat to our democratic way of life".

The situation was potentially unfair to the Prime Minister's Cabinet colleagues, it exposed the Prime Minister to speculation as to motive, and it was counter-productive.

"It has gone on for too long and should be arrested for the good of the nation," Mr. Mullings declared.

House Leader, the Hon. J. A. G. Smith, speaking later on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting, advised the House that the debate was not over by any means and if members wanted to keep the debate at a desired level then they should refrain from "slime" remarks which were not guaranteed to bring unity.

Asked after the sitting about what remarks he was referring to, Mr. Smith told the GLEANER that he was referring to remarks made by Mr. Mullings about Mr. Seaga being a "one-man band".



## Increase for Agriculture

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 83 pp 1, 17

[Text]

**TOTAL BUDGETARY support for Agriculture for the 1983/84 financial year is \$196,173,000, and represents an increase of \$21,739,000 or 12.4% over last year's allocation.**

These figures were given in the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, as he made his contribution to the 1983 Budget Debate and gave an overview of the budgetary provisions for his Ministry.

Dr. Broderick explained that the budgetary provisions for his Ministry and associated Departments, as shown in the Estimates tabled in the House, showed that for 1983/84 the total provisions amounted to \$128,609,000. The figure for 1982/83 was \$174,434,000.

Anyone casting a quick or cursory glance over the budgetary provisions would indeed find these figures alarming. But clearly, he said, this was not the total provision for agriculture. The provisions for 'Agro 21', the Agricultural Skills Training component of the HEART Programme, are both tabled under the Ministry of Finance.

"It is not unprecedented for provisions for agricultural endeavours to be tabled under the Ministry of Finance. When, therefore, the provisions for 'Agro 21' and the Agricultural Skills Training component of HEART are taken into account, it will be seen that the total budgetary support for Agriculture is \$196,174,000 and increase of \$21,739 or a 12.46% increase," the Minister said.

Dr. Broderick said it should be noted that 14 programmes under his Ministry have been "com-

pleted or divested," and when this is taken into account the "real increase is even greater."

The Recurrent Budget which finances the administrative and technical staffing of the Ministry reflects a \$1.17m. or 2.3% increase on the 1982/83 provisions. \$1.07m. of this is to finance the Agricultural Wardens programme. By maintaining strict cost controls, "we will hold our expenditure at 1982/83 levels," the Minister told the House.

Dr. Broderick said that the Ministry of Agriculture "remains committed to the goal of serving and maintaining an effective organisation to plan, promote and co-ordinate production ..."

Referring to the Government's programme for the structural adjustment of the economy, Dr. Broderick said: "The agricultural sector is required to make a significant contribution to the effort to secure balance of payment equilibrium through an increase in agricultural exports, and an improvement in domestic food supply, so as to promote growth in earning and saving of foreign exchange."

"Agro 21" was one of the means by which these goals would be accomplished, he said.

Dealing with local capital programme, the Minister said: "In respect of the local capital provisions, the Budget figures reflect a reduction from \$66.688 million the previous year to \$36.58 million for this year. This represents an 'apparent' fall of \$30.108 million. An examination of the main areas of reduction, will show why I say that the fall is more apparent than real."

The main of reduction are:

1. \$3.20 million or 68 percent in livestock. The major causes are: A. — during 82/83 a 'one-off'

supplementary provision of \$1.067 million was granted for the purchase of drugs and equipment for the Veterinary Division.

B.--The Midlands financing has been reduced by \$1.3 million as divestment is expected to be completed within the year.

C.--The Agricultural Development Corporation's dairy programme financing has been reduced by \$.500 million, as the programme moves towards commercial viability.

2. \$1.55 million or 15.8 percent in crop care and protection, caused mainly by:--

A.--A reduction of \$.350 million effected by handing over the implementation of the Coffee Berry Borer programme to the Coffee Industry Board.

B.--A savings of \$1 million effected by improved management of the Leaf Spot Control Programme.

3. \$2.6 million or 56.5 per cent in plant and seed production effected by:--

A.--Divestment of certain nurseries to the relevant commodity organisations and restructuring management of the others--A reduction of \$1.3 million.

B.--Divestment of the Thetford Seed Farm--a reduction of \$1 million.

C.--Divestment of Agricultural Development Corporation's seed programme--savings \$.300 million.

4. \$.470 million or 32 percent in fisheries development. There was a large thrust in beach development during 82/83 and only a reduced provision is required this year for completion.

5. \$3.610 million or 80 percent in infrasturcture development resulting mainly from:

A.--Savings of \$.270 million as development of the training centres is being financed by institutionally funded projects (agricultural planning and CARICOM training).

B.--Savings of \$1 million by establishing the minor irrigation programme as self-supporting.

C.--Reduction of \$2 million as only reduced provisions are required to complete development of the gardens, zoo and workshop.

6. \$3.2 million or 91 percent reduction in land acquisition due to the fact that this year's provision represents instalments due on properties acquired in 82/83.

7. \$1.656 million or 76.8 per cent reduction in support to statutory organisations namely:

--Tobacco Industry Control Authority \$.540 million

--A.D.C. (Loan) \$1.100 million

8. \$2.6 million or 27.4 per cent reduction in production incentives (formerly subsidies). This reduction on the Ministry's budget has been effected by transferring the entire administration and financing of the fertilizer subsidy programme to the Jamaica Commodity Trading Corporation.

9. \$6.115 million or 38 per cent reduction in rural development, caused mainly by:

A. Transfer of the Wardens programme to the recurrent budget--reduction of \$1.115 million.

C. Non-renewal of leases of certain unproductive project land lease properties has resulted in savings of \$0.700 million. [as published]

Although the provision of \$4.3m for the small farmers' loan programme has been removed from the budget, \$53.1 million of loan funds are now available through the Agricultural Credit Bank Limited.

Dr. Broderick said that the main thrust of this year's local capital budget will be to:

- A. Expand the revolving herd scheme.
- B. Continue production incentives especially the tank building programme which is no longer institutionally funded.
- C. Maintain our forestry and soil conservation programmes.
- D. Continue support to the extension service to farmers by maintaining the agricultural aides.
- E. Continuation of development on land settlements and freehold allotments.
- F. Complete improvement to the zoo and botanical gardens.
- G. Maintain crop care programmes.
- 1. Fisheries development--\$1.135 million or 30 per cent reduction due to:--
  - A. Reduction in requirement for the USAID Inland Fisheries Project.
  - B. Non-provision of funds for the fisheries complex.
- 2. Forestry and soil conservation--\$1.393 million or 82 percent reduction due to:--
  - A. Completion of the FAO/Norway soil conservation project.
  - B. Completion of the UNDP forestry rehabilitation project.
- 3. Infrastructure development--\$5.8 million or 89 percent reduction due to:
  - A. Transfer of the tank building project to the local capital budget.
  - B. Reduced activities on the micro dam project which is to be completed during the year.

C. Completion of the infrastructure phase of the Meyersfield project, and its transfer as a rice development project to rural development.

4. Support to statutory organisations: \$3.673 million or 56 percent reduction due to non-provision of funds for loan to National Sugar Company.

5. Rural development — \$8.140 million or 54 percent reduction caused by the scaling down of the second integrated rural development project.

Dr. Broderick said that some of the new projects being implemented are:

A. Lard Resource Assessment Project — funded by USAID and the Netherlands government.

B. Oysterculture project — funded by the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

C. CARICOM Middle Management Training Project funded by IDB and CARICOM.

D. The Forestry Institutional Strengthening Project funded by FAO and UNDP.

Those to be implemented during the year are:  
A. Delivery of veterinary services — to be funded by the Netherlands Government.

B. The Japanese coffee project.

C. The sheep and goat multiplication project to be funded by the Netherlands Government.

D. The Rural Credit Project funded by IFAD and IDB.

"In acknowledgement that the lack of adequate marketing facilities and information is one of the greatest constraints to the expansion of domestic food crop production and making a significant breakthrough in the non-traditional export market,

I draw attention to the fact that \$12.2 million or 31 percent of the loan funds will be spent in the following areas of marketing development:

- Completion of ten retail markets
- Construction of eight assembly and grading stations
- Construction of a fumigation chamber for processing of exports
- Construction of two regional wholesale markets
- Provision of financing and technical assistance to farmers' organisations," Dr. Broderick said.

CSO: 3298/610

## MANLEY FINDS FAULT WITH PNP IN REVIEWING 1972-80 ERA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 83 p 2

[Text] The People's National Party is building a movement which is separate from the populist tendency, the party's President, Mr Michael Manley, announced on Monday.

He was speaking at a press conference held at party headquarters, Old Hope Road, Kingston. According to Mr. Manley, what was wrong with the PNP between 1972 and 1980 was that it was not capable of sustained mobilization of the people. "The PNP was inadequately trained politically, it was inadequately mobilized internally, and was inadequately prepared for the higher needs that this kind of leadership demands".

The result, Mr. Manley observed, was that the PNP became the mirror to popular misunderstanding and discontent, rather than being the force that would mobilize and lead the country to understand what the answers to the problems were. "We became a house divided against itself ... and became almost an agent of counter-mobilization itself".

The Opposition Leader announced that his party would be work-

ing on trying to use political education as a means to creating a cadre of people who were absolutely disciplined and clear as to what the independent path was. They must be able to act as agents of mobilization, he added.

Mr. Manley stressed that there would be a party to stand the strains of \$1 billion in debts, the sacrifice of import substitutions and other economic sacrifices which the people would have to face while attempting an independent path. He announced that the party was being prepared in such a manner that there would be the closest articulation between the economic policies devised and the understanding of the party masses of those policies. This, he saw as necessary to eliminating the possibility of contradictions between what the people understood and what the policies provided for.

Earlier, Mr. Manley noted that the credibility of the two-party democracy was diminishing rapidly. This he attributed to the fact that each time the people were excited into the belief that some-

thing glorious was going to happen and it did not happen, disillusion began to set in at a faster rate.

He further saw Third World countries having to make the decision of whether to follow a neo-colonialist path or an independent one. Either of these two paths had certain traps in them with the independent path having operational faults in the political system, culture or economics.

However, he pointed out that experience had shown that the independent path could only be successful if there was a high degree of political mobilization to break traditional dependency. Success, he said, depended on how productivity was mobilized, the development of technology and how the relationship between consumer taste and import/export programmes were handled.

The traditional Westminster model could not produce an independent path without running into certain problems because the model placed a premium on division and could quickly deteriorate into tribal counter-mobilization.

## CIVIL SERVANTS ACCEPT PAY PLAN OFFERED BY GOVERNMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 83 pp 1, 17

[Text]

**CIVIL SERVANTS**, through their representative body, the Jamaica Civil Service Association, have decided to accept the Government's pay plan for public service workers, the introduction of which in April caused a three-day strike of Civil Servants islandwide.

Announcing the acceptance decision yesterday, the J.C.S.A. said it would accept retroactivity from July 1, instead of April 1, on condition that there would be no lay-offs in the Civil Service.

Following is the text of the announcement by the Association:

"The members of the Jamaica Civil Service Association, in a special emergency general meeting held today (Tuesday), by a majority vote took the decision to accept the Government's regrading proposals. In the resolution moved for the acceptance of the salary revision effective July 1, 1983, the following pre-conditions were stated:

- "A consideration of accepting a deferment of the effective date from April 1 to July 1, 1983 is that there be no lay-offs.

- "That there be no victimization as a consequence of the recent industrial actions".

Civil Servants went on strike for three days, starting April 19, following the rejection of the Government's wage offer, which placed about 2,697 of their number from the middle and top management groupings on a pay plan, with increases ranging from 15.6 per cent per annum to 45.1 per cent per annum, while some 13,682 who were left off the pay plan would receive a carrying-on sum of \$15 per week, retroactive to July 1.

This would result in pay increases of between \$1,900 and \$10,000 per annum for those who were placed on the pay

plan this year; and \$780 this year and \$780 next year for those who would be placed on the pay plan in two years' time.

On April 19, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, in a broadcast to the nation, appealed to the Civil Servants on strike to return to work. He stated that the pay plan offered by the Government was a significant improvement on the last few regradings when everyone got \$14 or \$15 a week.

"No one in this plan will get less than that and many will get significantly more on this occasion while those not in the special category will receive special treatment in the next regrading," the Prime Minister said.

The new pay proposals which were introduced for public-sector workers on April 6 included special provisions for pay re-grading for professional and top-level management within the Civil Service. These comprised a budget of \$100 million for wages and \$24 million for subsistence and travel over a two-year period.

This amount, the Prime Minister said, "is absolutely as far as the finances of the country can go and it represents the best offer made by any Government to date".



On April 20, Mr. Probyn Aitken, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, and Mr. Gordon Wells, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Public Service, met with the Jamaica Civil Service Association's negotiating team.

At that meeting, the Association received a letter from the Minister of

Labour and the Public Service, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, stating that negotiations could continue on condition that normal work was resumed. The J.C.S.A., which represents some 23,000 Civil Servants islandwide, agreed to instruct a work resumption, and Civil Servants returned to work on April 21.

CSO: 3298/611

## TRADE DEFICIT REPORTED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 May 83 p 1

[Article by Lambert Rowe]

[Text]

The visible trade deficit -the difference between the value of the country's imports and exports- exceed \$1.150 million in 1982. The trade deficit has grown year by year from \$95 million in 1977.

In 1982 the value of exports fell by more than 25% (\$461 million) from \$1,735 million in 1981 to \$1,294 million in 1982.

The value of imports was only cut back by \$178 million (less than 40% of the fall in exports) in 1982 to \$2,445 million.

The Bank of Jamaica Statistical Digest indicates the following performance for imports and exports in the

period 1976 to 1982.

Year	J\$ Million		
	Imports	Exports	Visible Trade deficit
1976	830	575	255
1977	782	686	95
1978	1,260	1,143	117
1979	1,755	1,446	308
1980	2,087	1,715	372
1981	2,623	1,735	888
1982	2,445	1,294	1,151

CSO: 3298/611

## BRIEFS

NEW RURAL ROADS PROJECT--The federal government has authorized the Secretariat of Communications and Transport an allotment of 6.15 billion pesos for its 1983 rural roads project, which is expected to make it possible to incorporate as soon as possible the greatest number of Mexicans who up to now have remained beyond the area of development. This budget will be used to build 2,560 Kilometers of rural roads and will help to integrate various communities having a population of 200 to 2,500 inhabitants. It will also favor employment of the underemployed and unemployed labor force in these localities. It was also said that, with the disappearance of the COPLAMAR [General Coordinating Board of the National Plan for Depressed Areas and Marginal Groups] program, there will be no duplication of functions in the directorate general of Rural Roads and it will be easier for the latter to carry out its functions in a more organized and suitable manner. This year's work projects will benefit 830 rural communities of the country. These new prospects will enable them to emerge from their geographic isolation and the government will be better able to attend to its services, infrastructure, and other basic requirements. [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 May 83 p 2] 8255

CSO: 3248/835

## BRIEFS

SUGAR CROP GAINS--The DEMOCRAT has been reliably informed that the sugar cane cutters are going "heavy guns" with their rate of cutting. Cutting rate is well above the average for "after Easter", which used to be 8,000 tons per week but the cane cutters are averaging in the region of 15,000 tons, these days. This is a clear indication that the cutters are mindful of the \$1 per ton bonus they can earn during this period of the crop and are making every effort to get the crop reaped expeditiously, bless their good hearts. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 30 Apr 83 p 12]

DUNROSSIL VISIT--His Excellency Viscount Dunrossil, the British High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean, arrived in the State yesterday (Friday) on a one-day visit from his headquarters in Barbados. Lord Dunrossil was accompanied by Mr. J. M. Crane, who has just been appointed Deputy British Government Representative as a replacement for the outgoing Mr. William Cordiner. The purpose of the visit was to introduce Mr. Crane to the Government of this State. Mr. Crane will be stationed in Antigua. While here, Lord Dunrossil also received an update on the Government's active plans for celebration of Independence on September 19 of this year. The British High Commissioner and his delegation left the State yesterday Friday afternoon. [as published] [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 30 Apr 83 p 10]

OIL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT--An Oil Processing Unit was installed at New River in Nevis to extract cooking oil from peanuts, cotton seeds and coco nuts. The plant was installed by a group of Engineers from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC). The Unit is one of the Canadian International Development Agency projects to be implemented in Nevis this year. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 7 May 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/613

## ODLUM ASSAILS UWP RECORD ON ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 7 May 83 p 3

[Text]

THE United Workers Party Government has initiated absolutely no new projects or issues, neither has it made any concerted effort to come to grips with the economic situation in St. Lucia during its first year in office.

This opinion was expressed by Leader of the Progressive Labour Party, George Odum, when he met members of the press Tuesday.

Commenting on the government's first year in office, Mr. Odum said that the most significant thrust of the government was its attempt to get together the Tripartite Commission.

## WAGE

"This was significant because it meant that the way the UWP Government was about to tackle the economy was by trying to get some understanding between the private sector, government and the trade unions in order to dampen wage demands in the economy and with the pious hope that price

spirals would also be controlled although there seemed to have had less emphasis on the control of prices than dampening the demand for wages," Odum said.

The PLP leader is of the opinion that the attempt has failed because the unions and workers do not have the confidence or trust in the Compton administration, that it would see them through the difficult economic times and consult their interest, as opposed to consulting the interest of the private sector and the Chamber of Commerce.

He added that this failure showed the inability of the government to have any impact on the economic position in St. Lucia. However, Mr. Odum said he would have dealt with the economic situation by totally revamping the economic structure as it is.

He challenged claims by the Government that the cost of living and unemployment had been reduced during its first year in office, saying there had been nothing to back up these claims.

Mr. Odum said that all the overt indications were that the level of unemployment was higher now than it was a year ago.

He added: "The word on the street is that there is suffering ... there is unemployment all around."

Mr. Odum contended that the UWP did not have the capacity to move the economy and referring to its first year in office he said: "There's absolutely nothing to crow about."

CSO: 3298/612

## ELECTRICITY SERVICES AFFECTED BY SHORTAGES OF FUNDS

Castries THE VOICE in English 11 May 83 p 4

[Text]

ST. LUCIA Electricity Services says' that its operations continued to be subjected to severe financial restraints during 1982 and that its short term outlook depended, in part, on the early approval in full of the Company's outstanding application for a five cent average increase in tariffs with effect from January 1, 1983.

The Public Utilities Commission earlier this year turned down the Company's application for a five cents per unit increase and instead awarded it 3.5 cents, effective January 1982.

According to the 1982 report of the Company's Board of Directors the increase awarded by the PUC "did not produce the quantum of additional revenue required because of the absence of any sales growth."

Additionally, it added, the debts of the Government and its statutory boards increased steadily during the year and it was not until last December that the Company was able to obtain overdraft facilities to provide working capital.

Says the report: "In this situation, the Company had no alternative but to severely prune its self financed capital expenditure programme which consists largely of improvements to the system on which the future level of service to customers depends and even then a significant build-up of arrears on payment for fuel supplies could not be avoided which in turn resulted in the fuel suppliers insisting upon payment in advance for deliveries of fuel thereby further exacerbating the situation.

"Unfortunately the financial restraints referred to above hindered the Company's programme to reduce system power losses to an acceptable level but by the end of the year a comprehensive programme of checking and repairing or replacing defective consumer meter installations had commenced."

The report said that trading results for the year showed a net profit of EC\$342,688 compared with an original estimate of EC\$1,573,011 and even this reduced figure was only achieved with the inclusion of a gain of EC\$300,344 on exchange adjustment due to favorable moves in the exchange rate between the Pound Sterling and the EC Dollar. The main reason for the substantial shortfall in profitability was the absence of any growth in sales.

During the year expenditure on fixed assets amounted to a total of EC\$1,183,990 including the following major items:

Continued rehabilitation of hurricane damage to the Company's transmission and distribution system.  
Extensions and new consumer installations financed by consumers

\$197,289

\$181,788

Replacement of vehicles	\$97,720
Computer — hardware and software	\$367,788
New connections financed by the Company	\$71,845

The report disclosed that a Generation Engineer/Instructor has been recruited on a two-year fixed term contract and the Company is pursuing its longer-term aim of changing the management structure by the creation of an Engineering Department.

An application has been made, through Government to aid authorities for the provision of an Adviser to assist in developing and training the Company's personnel to staff the new department.

During the year one Engineer completed a full-time year's course in the United Kingdom on Power System Engineering and returned to duty while a further Engineer proceeded on a similar course directed towards Mechanical Engineering. As at 31 December 1982 the Company's permanent staff consisted of 210 persons.

According to the report positive areas of achievement in 1982 were the successful installation of a computerized billing system, an improvement in system reliability in the second half of the year and the conclusion of an agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank and Government in respect of loan funds to finance a development programme of which the major constituent will be an additional generating set for Union Power Station.

The report concluded: "In the short-term the outlook depends very much on the early approval in full of the Company's outstanding application for an average increase in tariffs of 5 cents per unit with effect from 1 January 1983 and on an early and satisfactory solution being found to the crucial problem of the mounting debts of Government and its Statutory Bodies. Unless these matters are satisfactorily resolved at an early date both current and future operations will be further adversely affected.

"However, if they can be satisfactorily dealt with the Company now has a good base upon which to build sound future operations because of:

- (i) The computerisation of billing and other operations contributing to overall efficiency;
- (ii) The prospect of an additional generating set at Union Power Station thereby relieving undue pressure on generating plant in the North while the planning and building of a new station is undertaken.
- (iii) The benefits of staff training efforts over the last few years which are now becoming apparent coupled with the re-organisation of the management structure"



## BRIEFS

OPPOSITION TO MARCH BAN--The Progressive Labour Party (PLP) has written to a number of organisations drawing their attention to the Government's recent ban on public marches. A PLO spokesman said that the Chamber of Commerce, the Inter-Church Council, the Committee for the Promotion of National Unity, the Leader of the Opposition, Neville Cenac, the Leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party, Mr Cecil Lay, the Workers' Revolutionary Movement, Trade Unions and a number of regional organisations including the Caribbean Council of Churches were written to. He said the PLP had called for strong condemnation of the Compton Government for its "repressive actions."

[Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 14 May 83 p 1]

CS0: 3298/612

## BRIEFS

KOREAN ENVOY'S VISIT--The Korean Ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. San-Jin Choi paid a two-day visit to the State this week. He made courtesy calls on Prime Minister Milton Cato, Minister of Foreign Affairs Hudson Tannis, Minister of Trade Vincent Beache and His Excellency the Governor-General Sir Sydney Gun-Munro. Dr. Jin Choi also met members of the Government Information Division. The Ambassador left the state on Thursday evening. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 29 Apr 83 p 3]

MITCHELL QUESTIONS TO CABINET--The leader of the opposition New Democratic Party President James Mitchell, has submitted the following questions to the Clerk of the House of Assembly. 1. Will the Minister of Trade please explain why the retail price of sugar imported CIF St. Vincent at a cost of 48 cents per lb. is still sold at a controlled price of 80 cents per lb at a time when it is important to reduce the cost of living? 2. Will the Minister of Communication and Works explain why the Grenadines Star does not make two trips in the Southern Grenadines in any week that there is a public holiday? 3. Will the Prime Minister explain what benefit St. Vincent and the Grenadines derived from spending \$16,000 on the visit of the Attorney General to Sri Lanka. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 29 Apr 83 p 10]

CSO: 3298/613

## JAMAICA PAPER CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER CHAMBERS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 15 May 83 p 11

[Article by Hector Wynter]

[Text]

**W**HY DIDN'T Prime Minister George Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago attend the Barbados Summit on May 6 and 7 to discuss and settle the CARICOM Trade Impasse? Was it because of any hostility to Jamaica, Barbados and the rest? Is he following the late Prime Minister Eric Williams on the path of contemptuous isolation from his poorer Caribbean nations, emerging now and then to hand out packages of loan/aid from Trinidad oil bonanza?

Why is he remaining 'in his crease' not venturing out in even his own country to talk with and to the Press? Is he anti-the press?

In order to understand the man and Prime Minister George Chambers, I sought and obtained an interview with him in Port of Spain, Trinidad on Tuesday, April 19. The amazing thing was that there was no difficulty! His efficient High Commissioner in Jamaica, Victor McIntyre, sent the message. His office replied promptly, but there was a confusion over the date. He thought I had asked for Tuesday, April 12.

His protocol office in Port of Spain was most helpful, however. The mistake was corrected and he received me cor-

dially in his Whitehall office. As in Jamaica, confidential secretaries to Prime Ministers do not change. They remain until they retire — so the personable Mrs. Lai Fook ushered me into his presence. It was the same Mrs. Lai Fook who obtained appointments for me with the late Dr. Williams, when I was High Commissioner there. He was politeness personified, and the astute politician that he is, he smilingly indicated that there was no need for the tape-recorder. And how right he was, for again being very astute, much of what he said to me was "informal" and "off the record."

The Prime Minister is of just under average height, has been able to avoid a middle age paunch and in looks and build is not unlike the PNP's Vice-President Ramtallie of May Pen i.e. slight of build with sharp features. But racially he is what we would call 'creole' or 'coloured'. He has avoided the aping of the late Dr. Williams in manners and speech, but like him he is calm and unhurried in his delivery. Like any Trinidadian, however, he is given to impish 'picong' and has a ready sense of humour.

### Relations with Seaga

**GLEANER:** Mr. Prime Minister, can the CARICOM Trade impasse be resolved?

**CHAMBERS:** I believe so. Contrary to popular and press views, our relations with your Prime Minister Seaga are excellent. We have been close personally ever since we were both Ministers of Finance in the

sixties. I recognise Jamaica's problems; I know that there are certain constraints as far as the IMF is concerned.

**GLENER:** But won't the impasse begun by Jamaica's institution of the parallel market make relations worse?

**CHAMBERS:** That I regard as one of the occasional hurdles in the relationship which can be solved. There is no need for us to parade offensive remarks at one another. That is not the way to find a solution. I prefer to talk to Mr. Seaga on the telephone about these difficulties. I call him; he calls me; and we have been able to settle some problems quietly and without fuss.

As the Prime Minister said this, I could not help comparing him with the late Sir Donald Sangster whom he also knew well. The same sangfroid and the same determination to solve problems without fuss, and quietly.

**GLENER:** Mr. Prime Minister, could you tell me whether Jamaica consulted you about the parallel market before it was decided?

He sidestepped that question neatly and added:

"We have chatted about the parallel market and its implications. We have set up meetings about the Governments in Jamaica; and Cabinet is to discuss Mr. Carty's report on the Jamaica meeting with the proposed formula. Everything has been discussed in a frank and cordial atmosphere. There is no fight between us. The matter will be resolved."

**GLENER:** Do you see any similarity between your inheritance in Trinidad and Mr. Seaga's in Jamaica?

**CHAMBERS:** Let us say that we both inherited the challenge of great population expectations. In our case we had had seven years of economic boom from oil which had insulated us from the world recession. I thus inherited a high expectation of improved quality of life.

**GLENER:** But isn't the expectation of deliverance from a period of depression more difficult to fulfil than the expectation of keeping up the boom?

The Prime Minister again neatly side-stepped this attempt to get a comment on whether his or Mr. Seaga's inheritance was the more difficult. But it did appear to me that he saw his task as more daunting.

**GLENER:** What is that task?

**CHAMBERS:** The task of telling the country to adjust to the new circumstances where the boom in oil has disappeared.

**GLENER:** But this could not be done by you and the Press?

**CHAMBERS:** I am a great believer in a free press. We have a very free press. But sometimes it seems to me that the press does not put things in the context of global issues. The OECD for example has some 35 million people unemployed. But does the Caribbean press put the problems of the Caribbean within the world context? Sometimes it seems to me that the world context is ignored.

The Prime Minister did not seem to disagree with my view that there was a responsibility on the part of politicians and the press to establish the kind of relationship where the press would have easy access to information, as is their right. It was in this context I asked him about his statement that he was remaining in his "crease" despite the criticisms in Trinidad about his relative silence. He smilingly agreed that he could not 'run out' or 'stumped' if he remained in his crease, but the time was coming when he would be going after the ball.

**GLENER:** Would you agree that the void or distance between your government and the press is part of the legacy you inherited?

**CHAMBERS:** You have said so.

## Integrity Act

Mr. Chamber then talked about the Integrity Act, the draft of which was before the public for comment. He said that it was wider in its scope than any similar bill — certainly wider than Jamaica's. For it embraced family including children and to civil servants down to a relatively low salary based on right across the spectrum of government activity. Mr. Chambers said that it embraced judges, doctors, police and all in the public service.

**GLENER:** Anyone exempt?

**CHAMBERS:** The only person exempt is the President of the Republic, for he is the conscience of the nation.

**GLENER:** If the provisions are punitive and embraces so many people, won't the medicine be too strong for the patient?

**CHAMBERS:** Well, we are waiting on public reaction. We have to get at the base of corruption. But I agree, the danger of an exodus from the public service is a real fear.

We then turned to Trinidad and the restructuring of the University of the West Indies.

**GLENER:** Won't the restructuring proposed first by Trinidad and now accepted, break up the UWI?

**CHAMBERS:** No. The broadening of the base of the UWI will lead to more diversification in the University which will be good for the UWI and the region. The lesser developed countries had certain apprehensions and there were mentioned at the CARICOM Summit in Ocho Rios in November last year. We were all ready to accept the restructuring plan subject to settling the apprehensions of the Non-Campus Territories. A working party was set up, and it is closed to finality now. I see no difficulty to restructuring going through.

### July summit

**GLENER:** Will this and other questions be settled at the July summit meeting?

**CHAMBERS:** I expect so. Preparations are well advanced for that Summit. There is a Ministerial Committee under Errol Mahabir which is preparing the meeting and it is working well. All plans are well advanced.

**GLENER:** Will it be in Chaguaramas?

**CHAMBERS:** No. It will be in Port of Spain at the beginning of July when we celebrate 10 years of the CARICOM Treaty. It will be an update of the Ocho Rios Summit when the reports of the working parties on Energy, UWI, Air Transport, Food Plan will be taken. We will, of course, discuss the World Economic situation and implications for the Caribbean.

**GLENER:** Will it be discussions and not decisions?

**CHAMBERS:** No. Ocho Rios laid the groundwork. Documents will be presented for decisions. And those will be taken and marching orders given for action.

**GLENER:** But won't the CARICOM trade impasse affect the summit adversely?

**CHAMBERS:** Oh, that will be of the way before July. I met with your Prime Minister and others in St. Lucia in February, and I am sure that we will resolve that matter before July. The decks will be cleared of contentious issues like that, before we meet.

**GLENER:** Can CARICOM really survive these frequent difficulties?

**CHAMBERS:** Frequent? CARICOM will not break up. It is all we

have. Every regional grouping has problems, and so I know that we must have bumpy periods. But once the political will is there, the grouping will endure. We must first clear up our problems and strengthen it before we expand.

I took that to be an oblique reference to the view held by Mr. Seaga and others that to strengthen CARICOM it must expand. But the Prime Minister did not agree with my suggestion of a difference.

**CHAMBERS:** I am a very close friend of Mr. Seaga, and we can discuss everything cordially. And we are always prepared to help one another. It would be grossly unfair for any of us to embarrass one another.

We then discussed the general problems of Ministers of Finance in the Caribbean especially when they are Prime Ministers and he added, with his bright smile:

"It has always been my good fortune to preside over the Treasury when things are not so rosy."

As a final question, I asked him about Grenada and CARICOM.

**CHAMBERS:** "We have to keep talking to Mr. Bishop, for only by doing so can we persuade him..."

And that was that. Mr. Chambers, like the late Sir Donald Sangster, had fielded the questions from within his crease without coming out to make a straight drive or cover drive. He would do so only when it was a No Ball (i.e. off the record) But he promised that he would be soon hitting out and moving his feet.

That is something to wait for.

Perhaps Mr. Chambers did not go to Barbados the week ending of May 6 to 7 for the Summit meeting of the CARICOM Trade Impasse because he thought it wiser to stay in his crease; and because he would say that his relationship with Mr. Seaga was such that he must have discussed the matter with him by telephone and that his ministers had instructions to be ready to accept a compromise solution. And he well may have. Mr. Chambers continues to be an enigma to his critics, but he is well on top of his job. To follow Dr. Eric Williams is to follow a legend. The PM knows this and does not seem to me to be overwhelmed by the enormity of the task.

**END OF**

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